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Canadian **Music** Week

Metro hits all the right notes to keep you in tune with Canadian Music Week.

- Today
Some best bets as 500 acts prepare to hit the stage at 45 venues, including Jenn Grant, below, pg 36
- Tomorrow
John Roberts talks about his induction into the Broadcast Industry Hall of Fame.

Riding the **Recession**

Looking for ways to save money and ride out the economic storm? Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

- Metro Drive
Putting the brakes on car maintenance costs and keeping the mechanic away, pg 21
- Tomorrow
Food – We serve up some local meals for a steal.
- Friday
Movies – Some film suggestions to take your mind off your own financial problems.

Tibet **Uprising commemorated**

A man shouts slogans for a free Tibet yesterday in front of the Chinese embassy in Berlin to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule. Rallies were held around the world, including Toronto. **More coverage, pages 3, 11.**

Revved up over OLG

Smitherman blasts lottery corp. over 'crappy decision'

Ontario's scandal-plagued lottery corporation was read the riot act for making the "crappy decision" to buy European-built luxury cars as contest prizes instead of domestic ones, the provincial government said yesterday.

Deputy Premier George Smitherman said he minced no words when he spoke with the Ontario and Lottery Gaming Corp.'s top brass yesterday morning.

"That was a crappy decision and I let them know it

in full force that it wasn't going to be tolerated going forward," Smitherman said. "It's disappointing, it's disillusioning, it's wrong on all levels and it was a big mistake."

Smitherman agreed with the Opposition that the

OLG was wrong to buy 22 Mercedes-Benz B200s as part of its "License to Win" contest at the province's casinos at a time when thousands of Ontario autoworkers are losing their jobs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

McGuinty mulls scrap plan for older cars

Premier Dalton McGuinty isn't ruling out a so-called scrappage program in the upcoming Ontario budget to boost sales of new vehicles in the troubled auto industry.

Ford Canada chief executive David Mondragon is urging Ottawa to give consumers a \$3,500 rebate or credit when they trade in a vehicle that's at least 11 years old to buy a new one.

McGuinty said Mondragon, who raised the idea in a parliamentary committee hearing Monday, gave him the same pitch in a meeting last week.

"There's a certain compelling dimension to this," he said, adding countries like Germany already have such programs in place.

"That's something else that's on the table and I'm sure that (Finance Minister Dwight) Duncan is going to have to take that under consideration."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sales

- Ontario consumers were previously given a tax break on new vehicles, but the plan simply speeded up sales rather than increased them, Finance Minister Dwight Duncan said.

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Man fined for overfishing

A Toronto man has been fined \$1,000 after pleading guilty to overfishing on Lake Simcoe. On Jan. 9, conservation officers were checking on anglers near the town of Georgina, when they found Wai-Chee Lam with 67 yellow perch in a bucket — 17 more than the daily limit he was allowed to fish. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

3

Local

**Man pleads guilty in U.S.**

A Canadian man has pleaded guilty to trying to smuggle more than 275,000 pills of ecstasy into the United States. Joseph Bennett of Scarborough pleaded guilty Monday in federal court in Detroit to charges of importation of ecstasy and possession with intent to distribute. Sentencing is set for June 15. Authorities say Bennett was arrested last year at the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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Tomorrow's Metro**Music**

Metro reviews the original American Idol Kelly Clarkson's new album, All I Ever Wanted.



metronews.ca
What's online today.

Video Prime Minister Harper says Canada is poised to profit from the global recession at metronews.ca/canada
Video Testimony at the inquiry into Robert Dziekanski's death has shaken public confidence in the RCMP at metronews.ca/canada
Blogs Political Stripes says it about time automakers stopped blaming the recession for all their problems.



Lotteries
Ontario Pick 3: 2 4 4; Ontario Pick 4: 3 6 1 0
Encore: 8163966
Daily Keno: 2, 4, 14, 15, 16, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 33, 39, 44, 45, 52, 56, 63, 64, 65, 66.
These results are not official.

News in brief

SCHOOLS Toronto's public board is looking to axe 150 educational assistant and 36 teacher-librarian positions to help balance its budget for the next school year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tibetans remember uprising

Fifty years after riots to protest Chinese rule, Tibetans fight for freedom

Hundreds of protesters from one of Tibet's largest expatriate communities took to the streets of Toronto yesterday to mark the 50th anniversary of an uprising against China.

The demonstrators, many carrying Tibetan flags or signs and chanting slogans like "Free Tibet, China out," marched several kilometres from a west-end park to the downtown Chinese Embassy.

The city is home to about 3,500 Tibetans, the third-largest expat community outside India and Nepal.

"It's already been 50 years since Tibet was occupied, and it's been 50 years too long," 25-year-old protester Bhutla Karpoche said.

Karpoche, who was born



Tibetans and their supporters march east along Queen Street at Bathurst Avenue yesterday, en route to the Chinese Consulate in Toronto. Tibetans around the world are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1959 Tibetan national uprising against China's occupation.

in a Nepalese refugee camp after her parents fled their native Tibet over the Himalayas, said she hoped the march would help continue putting pressure on govern-

ments to help Tibet regain its freedom.

"It is our land. I want my independent Tibet," said Karma Tenzin, 46, who was born in India shortly after

his parents fled Tibet in 1959.

In India, the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, told a group of about 2,000 people — including Buddhist

monks, Tibetan school-children and a handful of foreign supporters — that the religion, culture, language and identity of successive generations of Tibetans faced "extinction" half a century ago.

Tibetans in Tibet were living in "hell on earth," he added.

While Beijing claims Tibet has been part of Chinese territory for centuries, Tibet was a deeply isolated theocracy until 1951, when Chinese troops invaded Lhasa, the regional capital.

Yesterday was the 50th anniversary of riots on March 10, 1959, in Tibet against Chinese rule that led to a crackdown and the Dalai Lama's subsequent escape across the Himalayas into exile. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

City slow to make cup decision

COUNCIL It takes just a minute to grab a cup of takeout coffee.

But to figure out what to do with the empty cup? That will take six months of deliberation by a 40-member task force, split into five subcommittees and backed up by \$50,000 worth of consultants' reports.

A task force set up by the City of Toronto in December on what to do about the 350 million take-out cups dispensed here each year won't meet its April deadline.

It will be June before the task force reports. And even then, the outlook for a consensus ranges from gloomy to cautiously optimistic.

"Is it more complicated than we anticipated? Yes," acknowledges Coun. Glenn De Baeremaeker, chair of the city's works committee, which ignited the issue last fall with a report on getting packaging materials out of the garbage stream.

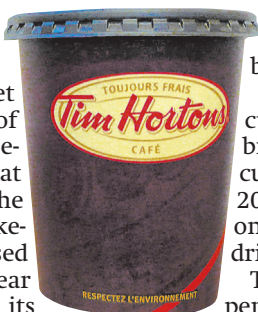
The hottest issue proved to be coffee cups.

City staff said customers who bring their own cups should get a 20-cent discount on tea or coffee drinks.

They also said paper cups with plastic lids should be banned, because paper recyclers complain the lids contaminate the paper.

The recommendations didn't fly.

Toronto council gave in



"Is it more complicated than we anticipated? Yes."

Coun. Glenn De Baeremaeker

to a furious lobbying effort by the takeout industry. Instead of making a decision, council set up a city-industry task force and gave it an April deadline.

Now the decision has been pushed back until June because consultants hired by the task force — largely at city expense — are just completing their reports on topics ranging from consumer behaviour, to markets for recycled material, to health and safety issues involved in allowing customers to use their own cups.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sales taxes on five cent plastic bags likely

SHOPPING For Toronto shoppers looking forward to the prospect of paying 5 cents for plastic shopping bags this summer, here's more good news: You'll probably have to pay GST and provincial sales tax on the bags.

Toronto has ordered retailers to charge customers 5 cents each for plastic

shopping bags in June, and some store owners have been asking whether they'll have to charge sales tax.

Stores that have jumped the gun on Toronto's policy and are already charging customers for shopping bags are charging sales tax.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Energy help for some residents

BILLS There is a light at the end of the tunnel for Ontario residents having trouble paying some of their utility bills.

The body that governs the province's electricity and natural gas utilities is planning a new program to help low-income households.

The Ontario Energy Board calls the initiative LEAP — an acronym for Low-Income Energy Assistance Program.

Among other things, it's designed to provide temporary financial assistance to customers in need and create more flexible rules on disconnection and paying bills. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

A 14-year-old boy has been arrested after allegedly making a prank call to police that sent a Brampton school into lockdown yesterday afternoon. Police received an anonymous tip around 1:15 p.m. that there were four males with handguns inside Bramalea Secondary School that turned out to be false. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Canada will rise faster

Harper says that Canada has 'real advantages' in crisis

The global economic crisis is an opportunity for Canada to cash in when the eventual recovery arrives, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said yesterday in his first major speech on the current recession.

Ottawa will ensure the country comes out of the recession faster than other nations and stronger than ever, Harper said, adding Canada entered the global recession in a position of strength compared to other countries.

"For Canada, this crisis does offer opportunity," Harper said in a speech to the Brampton Board of Trade.

"Ultimately, it is an opportunity to position our-

U.S. consumers the saviour: Clement

Industry minister says auto industry needs American buyers

Only American consumers can save the flattened auto industry from extinction, Industry Minister Tony Clement said yesterday, adding the Canadian government is still mulling over a bailout package for the teetering sector. Eighty-five per cent of the autos and parts

produced in Canada flow to the U.S., where demand for vehicles has plummeted by 50 per cent, Clement noted. "The issue is not Canadian demand, the issue is American demand," Clement said after a speech to the C.D. Howe Institute.

selves so that when the recovery comes, we're among the first to catch the wave."

Canada was the last "advanced country" to fall into recession, he said.

"If there ever was a time to put away that legendary Canadian modesty, it is

now," Harper said.

"Notwithstanding all the troubles around us, Canada has real advantages, real assets, and we should not hesitate to remind investors, partners and leaders around the world of the comparative strengths of our country."

The 3,330-word address, which comes amid a steady stream of grim economic news and massive layoffs spanning numerous industries, is part of a broader shift in strategy for the prime minister.

A spokesman said the speech locale was chosen because southern Ontario's manufacturing sector has been particularly hard-hit by the recession. Brampton, is home to a Chrysler assembly plant and scores of light industry.

The Chrysler plant employs 3,500 people and although it remains open, it was recently idled for a week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Auto workers in Oshawa yesterday read details of a proposed agreement with GM Canada that contains key concessions by the Canadian Auto Workers. Results of the vote will be known today.

CAW members voting on GM cost-cutting deal

UNION Members of the Canadian Auto Workers union started voting yesterday on a new cost-cutting contract with General Motors, with many members saying they supported the agreement, albeit reluctantly.

As thousands of GM employees gathered in the General Motors Centre in Oshawa to vote on the agreement, many said they realized the deal was necessary, although that didn't make it any easier

on workers.

"It's painful, but we gotta be realistic," said Doug Alexander, an electrician who has worked at GM's Oshawa assembly complex for 25 years and will soon be laid off.

The tentative deal between the union and the struggling automaker includes a wage freeze to September 2012, the elimination of an annual bonus and a reduction in paid time off, among other concessions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CRIME One man is on the run and three others face 291 charges related to a slew of gas-station robberies after a major police takedown. Staff Insp. Bruce Crawford of the Toronto police holdup squad said the amount of cash and goods taken by the "gas station bandits" could run into the tens of thousands of dollars.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Africentric school plan becoming a reality

ENROLLED Fourteen years after a royal commission suggested it as one way to lower the dropout rate among blacks, Toronto will open an Africentric alternative school this fall with at least four classes from kindergarten to Grade 5 with more teachers from diverse backgrounds and less Euro-

pean-based lessons.

The Toronto District School Board announced yesterday that 56 students have enrolled in the unusual new program — enough to plan at least four classes in an unused wing of Sheppard Public School. There will be a combined junior and senior kindergarten, a Grade 1

class, one combined Grade 2/3 class and a combined Grade 4/5 class.

Another 30 children have indicated an interest in enrolling at the school on Sheppard Avenue West at Keele Street, and the school will continue to accept new students in the spring and summer.

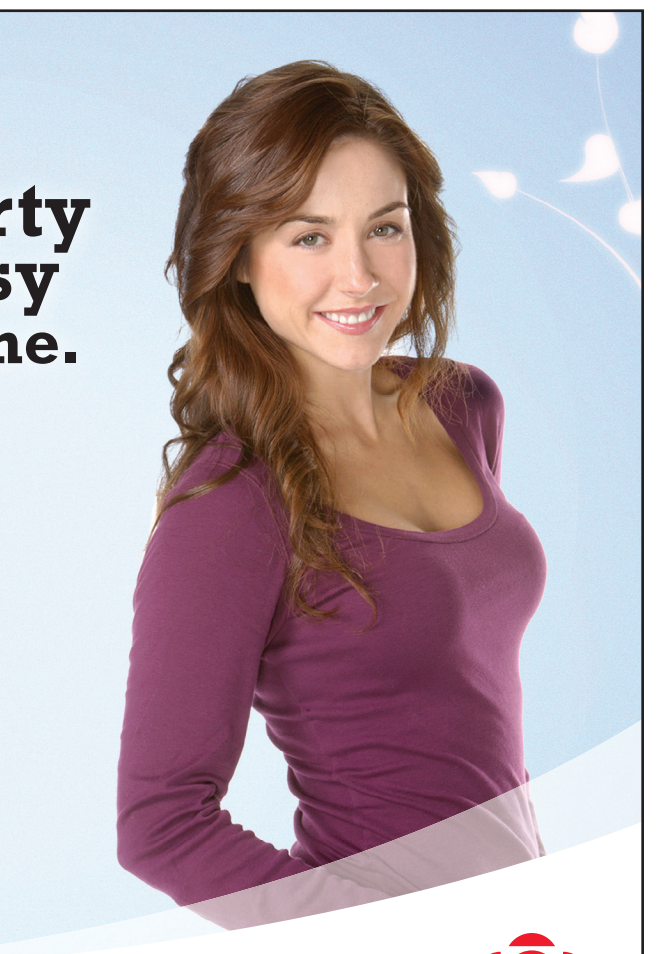
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A costume party pushes jealousy over the borderline.

Tonight, Erica goes back to learn the truth about friendship.

BEING Erica



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A teenager was rushed to hospital yesterday with serious injuries after he was hit by a steering-wheel locking club following a fight at Kingston Road and Eastville Avenue in Scarborough. The victim was taken to hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

When to start class?

Grits won't force boards

Ontario school boards were "urged" yesterday to start classes after Labour Day this fall, but the Liberal government said it won't force any boards to scrap plans to bring back students the week before the traditional end-of-summer holiday.

Some boards will wait until after Labour Day, which falls on Sept. 7 this year, to begin classes, but others want to start Sept. 1, in part to make up class time lost by the Liberal government's creation of a new Family Day holiday in February.

The Opposition said tourism-related businesses already suffering from the

economic downturn, including the Canadian National Exhibition, could be hard-pressed to find workers if students are back in school before Labour Day.

PD days

- Education Minister Kathleen Wynne told the legislature she is writing to school boards asking them to schedule a professional development day for teachers before Labour Day, so classes can start after Sept. 7.

Students and their families are also counting on the extra income from those summer jobs, said deputy Progressive Conservative Leader Elizabeth Witmer.

"It has a huge impact, and this year when we're already suffering a downturn in the economy, and families are getting pretty desperate — maybe the mother or father has lost their job, and the child now won't have that extra week of work," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Olympics Educating students



Canadian Olympic athlete Kimberly Ribble-Orr signs autographs yesterday for students at Nelson A Boylen Collegiate Institute after launching the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay School Kit. The Canadian Olympic School Program has created a kit of free educational resources to engage students in the excitement of the Olympic movement.

News in brief

COURT Ontario's top police officer, Julian Fantino, lost a second legal bid yesterday to have an adjudicator he accused of bias thrown off an increasingly messy disciplinary hearing. A three-member Divisional Court

panel unanimously found retired judge Leonard Montgomery had behaved reasonably, and the judges rejected accusations of impartiality from Fantino, the commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police.

"The adjudicator and counsel are professionals with well understood responsibilities that are informed by the duties that apply to officers of the court," the court said in its 30-page decision.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pets mean the world to their owners: Vet

A Toronto veterinarian, who once instinctively jumped into an icy pool to rescue his three-month-old pug, says most owners will do anything to save their pets, even put their own lives in peril.

"I do believe it's not an exception, but the norm," said Sheldon Jafine of Willowdale Animal Hospital. "Most people react the same way they would for their children — almost unconsciously. Pets mean the world to their owners."

Bob Campbell, 64, was killed Monday while trying to save his two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels who had run into the path of an approaching train.

"I'm sure he didn't think he was going to get hit by the train, but his first instinct was to get the dogs off the tracks," said Jafine, who has been treating animals for 26 years.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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BEAUTY
at the Bay

Manitoba's law commission says children who are artificially conceived after the death of a parent deserve equal inheritance rights. The commission is recommending the province change its law so that such offspring are treated the same as children who were born while both parents were alive. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canada



Obit channel to air in Quebec

A Quebec entrepreneur has obtained a licence from the CRTC to launch an obituaries channel in the province. Gerald Dominique hopes to start the *Je me souviens* channel this summer. The French-language channel will charge a fee to broadcast obituaries, prayers, hospitalization notices and messages of thanks. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Flaherty targets Senate

Finance minister talks tough with Liberals to pass budget bill

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty demanded that the Liberal-dominated Senate pass his budget bill this week, warning that Canada is in a crisis and many more Canadians will lose their jobs in the coming months.

"I'm going to urge you to deal with this bill this week and don't go on holidays until you deal with it," he said.

The finance minister's first appearance before the Senate finance committee on the budget bill was anything but a soft sell.

Speaking in stern terms, he at times appeared to scold the senators and dismissed out of hand suggestions that he spin off controversial as-



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty prepares for his appearance before the Senate Finance committee in Ottawa yesterday. Flaherty demanded the Senate pass his budget bill this week.

pects of the budget bill dealing with environmental standards and pay equity to facilitate passage of the \$40-billion stimulus package.

New Brunswick Liberal

Pierrette Ringuette accused the minister of "being very aggressive for some reason."

Independent Progressive Conservative senator Lowell Murray was equal-

Bad blood

- Jim Flaherty's dead-on-arrival November economic update triggered a constitutional crisis after the three opposition parties threatened to bring down the government, accusing the Conservatives of failing to deal with the worsening economy.

ly offended by Flaherty's comments.

"It takes a lot of nerve for you come in here and lecture us about timing after you wasted two months with prorogation digging yourself out of the hole you got yourself into with the November statement," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver cops frazzled as more bodies discovered

CRIME Another report of shots fired in Vancouver led police to two bodies yesterday morning.

Reporters arrived to the now-familiar scene of yellow police tape and bullet holes in an apartment window.

Police said there were two bodies inside the walk-up apartment above a furniture store in the

city's east side but they did not immediately enter the crime scene. Police were waiting for forensic investigators to arrive.

The public has been increasingly on edge since a spate of violence began about six weeks ago, and Vancouver Const. Lindsey Houghton said police are also getting frayed nerves.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

REGINA More than 50 students who went to a school for the deaf in Saskatchewan are suing the province, alleging they were beaten and sexually assaulted. Lawyer Tony Merchant says so far, 52 former students of the provincial school for the deaf in Saskatoon have come forward with stories of physical and sexual abuse.

MARKETING Quebec's federation of maple syrup producers says a company is using clever packaging to dupe its consumers into believing they're getting a good deal on the real thing. Bernard & Sons is selling table syrup to Quebecers in a tin can, the province's iconic container for pure maple syrup.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Family considering lawsuit in prison death

The lawyer for the family of a teenaged girl who killed herself while prison guards watched says a lawsuit is being considered. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

canada 9

Tories draw attention to immigration fraud

New campaign targets would-be Canadians

After being flooded with fake wedding photos, false forms and forged signatures, the Canadian government is sounding the alarm over immigration fraud.

Officials launched a campaign yesterday warning potential immigrants they could be removed from Canada if they enter under false pretences.

The warning came in a video the government posted on the Internet, and will be carried in brochures sent out in different languages to Canadian visa offices around the world.

On the web

- The immigration fraud video can be viewed at http://www.cic.gc.ca/eng/lish/departement/media/multimedia/video/becoming_canadian/fraud/fraud.asp

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney also issued a warning about immigration consultants, saying they don't get you in faster, and if you hire one it had better be from the government's approved list.

Kenney's political oppo-

nents say unscrupulous consultants are the real problem, and that the scams will persist until the government starts regulating that industry.

The minister described the elaborate hoaxes people orchestrate to bolster their application chances.

Department officials say they've received forged signatures and letterheads from imposters using the names of members of Parliament and doctors; fraudulent death certificates; and letters from Canadian funeral-home employees who don't exist.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

TASER The death of Robert Dziekanski at Vancouver's airport has eroded public confidence in the RCMP among Canadians who feel police used too much force when they shocked him with a Taser.

A poll by The Canadian Press-Harris Decima found 61 per cent of those surveyed felt the officers used excessive force on Dziekanski.

BIRTHS Newfoundland and

Labrador's Centre for Health Information reported yesterday that 4,905 babies were born last year, an increase of more than 300 from 2007 and the largest baby boom since the early 1990s. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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**Obesity 2007; 15:939-949; Rock CL, et al.



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10canada

Hearing set for bus beheader

Vince Li, the man who beheaded his seatmate on a Greyhound bus will appear before a review board June 1. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Border presence lacking: RCMP

A senior Mountie says the RCMP needs a more visible presence along the Canada-U.S. border to bolster security.

Assistant Commissioner Mike Cabana said yesterday the stronger presence would help the force gather information from people in border communities about criminal threats.

Cabana, the senior officer responsible for border integrity issues, told the House of Commons committee on public safety it's a missing piece of the border policing puzzle.

MPs unhappy with answers

• Committee MPs grilled RCMP Assistant Commissioner Mike Cabana and a panel of federal security officials on the

flood of American handguns spilling onto Canadian streets — and later said they were unhappy with the answers.

“What we recognize now is the community involvement is missing,” he said after the meeting. “We realize that we need to go back to the community and initiate discussions with them.”

Cabana said it would not necessarily mean hiring additional personnel or opening new detachments.

“The investigative capability is there. But we need to do a better job at co-ordinating with the community and reaching out for the community’s involvement in securing the border. And the best way to do that is through a visible presence,” he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Judges approve Maple Leaf listeriosis lawsuit settlement

COURT A settlement in a class-action lawsuit against Maple Leaf Foods over the deadly listeriosis outbreak has been given the go-ahead by judges in Ontario and Saskatchewan.

Justice Ron Barclay in Saskatchewan approved the \$25-million deal yesterday. A similar written ruling was issued Monday by Ontario Superior Court Justice Paul Perell.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

RIGHTS A United Nations report singles out the infamous Canadian case of Maher Arar in denouncing information sharing with foreign intelligence agencies without “adequate safeguards” to protect human rights.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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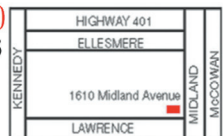
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Iran doesn't have fuel for nuclear warhead, U.S. official says

U.S. Defence Intelligence Agency chief Lt.-Gen. Michael Maples, testifying yesterday before the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Iran does not have any highly enriched uranium and has not yet made the decision to build a nuclear bomb. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

World



Smoking ban in casinos?

New Jersey is considering a ban on smoking in all of Atlantic City's 11 casinos — something the city itself has been unable to impose. A state Senate committee is looking at a bill to remove the casino exemption to the statewide smoking ban in public places. The Atlantic City council has tried three times to ban smoking in casinos.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dalai Lama blasts Beijing

Tibetan leader says Tibet is 'hell on earth' under China

Tibet has become "hell on earth" under Chinese oppression that has driven Tibetan culture to the verge of extinction, the Dalai Lama said yesterday, in harsh comments marking the 50th anniversary of the failed uprising that sent him into exile.

Chinese martial law, and hardline policies, devastated the mountain region and left hundreds of thou-

"Even today, Tibetans in Tibet live in constant fear, and the Chinese authorities remain constantly suspicious of them."

Dalai Lama

sands of Tibetans dead, he said, condemning the "brutal crackdown" in the area since protests last year turned violent.

"Even today, Tibetans in Tibet live in constant fear,

and the Chinese authorities remain constantly suspicious of them," the Dalai Lama said in the Indian hill town of Dharmasala, where he and the self-proclaimed government-in-

exile have been based since shortly after fleeing their homeland.

In Tibet and restive western China, paramilitary police and soldiers swarmed cities and villages, on the alert for possible unrest on the anniversary. The Tibetan capital of Lhasa, where the uprisings of 1959 and 2008 started, was calm but tense.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The Dalai Lama greets people at the Tsuglakhang temple in Dharmasala, India, yesterday on the 50th anniversary of the failed Tibetan uprising that sent him into exile.

9 shot dead in Alabama towns by single gunman

CRIME Authorities say at least 10 people have been shot and killed in two south Alabama towns, including the gunman.

The Alabama Department of Safety says at least four shootings by a single gunman left at least nine people dead before he killed himself.

The department says in a statement that the shootings began late yesterday afternoon in Samson.

The shooter killed five people in one home and

one each in two other homes.

The gunman then shot at a state trooper's car, striking the vehicle seven times and wounding the trooper with broken glass.

Police pursued him to Reliable Metal Products just north of Geneva, where he fired an estimated 30 rounds before going into the business and shooting himself.

Geneva and Samson are near the Florida border.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Continuity Irish Republican Army graffiti is scrawled on a wall close to the spot where a policeman was shot in Lismore Manor, Craigavon, Northern Ireland, yesterday.

IRA dissidents claim third killing

PLEDGE Catholic and Protestant leaders of Northern Ireland's coalition government jointly pledged to crush Irish Republican Army dissidents in an exceptional show of unity yesterday after the third killing in two days claimed by an IRA splinter group.

Police said they arrested an 18-year-old man on sus-

U.S. tour

• Northern Ireland's coalition leaders are preparing to leave for a high-profile U.S. tour capped by their first meeting with President Barack Obama on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

picion of involvement in the latest slaying Monday

night, when a policeman was shot through the back of the head as he sat in his patrol car in Craigavon, a religiously divided town southwest of Belfast.

The Continuity IRA said it killed the officer — 48 hours after another splinter group, the Real IRA, gunned down two British soldiers. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Iraqi suicide bomber kills 33

VIOLENCE A suicide bomber struck Sunni and Shiite tribal leaders and high-ranking security officials touring a market after a reconciliation meeting west of Baghdad yesterday, killing 33 people. The attack raised concerns about a spike in violence as the U.S. military begins to draw down its forces.

The bombing — which left clusters of bodies near the market stalls lining a road — was the third large-scale attack in less than a week.

It was the latest in a wave that has marred an announcement Sunday by the U.S. military that 12,000 American troops and 4,000 Britons will be withdrawn by September.

U.S. troops are to leave the cities by the end of June, but the attacks raise questions about whether Iraqi security forces will be able to cope with persistent violence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

LAWSUIT A Gaza family is suing Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and other Israeli officials for \$200 million US over the deaths of relatives during Israel's recent military offensive in Gaza. The suit, filed by the Samouni family, says the Israeli military ordered members of the family into a warehouse and then attacked them, killing 29 people, including women and children.

POPE The Vatican's top envoy in the Holy Land says Pope Benedict will visit sites holy to Muslims and Jews during his upcoming trip to the Middle East. Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco says the pontiff's eight-day visit in May will include stops at the Dome of the Rock and the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The Pope will end the visit by celebrating mass in the Galilee. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**





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Suicide bomber attacks Muslim procession in Sri Lanka

A rebel suicide bomber attacked a procession of Muslims celebrating a religious holiday in southern Sri Lanka yesterday, killing 14 people and critically wounding a government minister. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Afghan fixer killed

Journalist worked mainly for CTV News

Javed Yazamy loved Hollywood movies, mostly action flicks.

For the Afghan freelance cameraman, reporter and "fixer" for media outlets covering Canada's military mission in Afghanistan, pirated DVDs were a perfect way to sharpen his English. They were also a window on a world he struggled to understand — and desperately wanted to join.

He never got the chance. Yazamy known to most

Detained

• In 2007, Javed Yazamy was abruptly detained by U.S. special forces outside the gates to Kandahar Airfield. He spent 11 months in military custody before he was set free in September 2008.

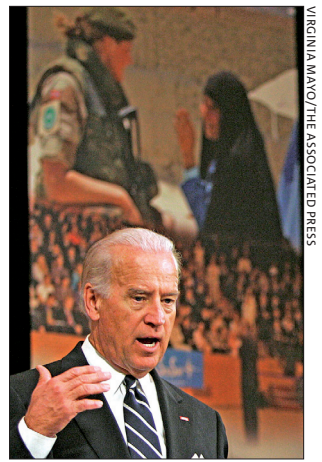
by his nickname, Jojo, was gunned down yesterday in a brazen drive-by shooting in Kandahar city. Several Afghan journalists said they suspect his death was

ordered by the Taliban.

Just days before his death, Yazamy had asked fellow journalists to write letters of reference for his Canadian visitor's visa application. He said he wanted to see the country whose news coverage he helped shape during several bloody years in Kandahar.

Yazamy, 23, worked primarily as a cameraman for CTV News, but was often hired by others.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden addresses the media at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Biden seeks NATO aid in Afghanistan

STRATEGY U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden urged NATO members to jointly confront al-Qaida and other extremist groups in Afghanistan where he said instability threatens all of the alliance's members equally.

Appearing before NATO's top decision-making body, Biden solicited ideas to reverse a losing military strategy in Afghanistan as part of U.S. President Barack Obama's policy to bring more European allies on board to fight the Taliban-led insurgency. He warned the situation in Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan was worsening, saying: "It was from that remote area of the world that al-Qaida plotted 9/11 and subsequent attacks" in Europe and elsewhere.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MacKay

• Recent media reports suggest Joe Biden has been lobbying on behalf of Canadian Defence Minister Peter MacKay as the next choice for secretary general of NATO, but yesterday he said Washington has not yet made a decision on who it would support.

Madoff to plead guilty, lawyer says

PLEA Bernard Madoff's lawyer has told a judge his client will plead guilty later this week to 11 counts including money laundering, perjury and securities, mail and wire fraud.

Prosecutors say the disgraced money manager will face up to 150 years in prison on the charges.

The details of the criminal case emerged at a hearing yesterday to resolve several potential conflicts of interest between Madoff and his lawyer, Ira Sorkin.

Sorkin and his family invested more than \$900,000 US with Madoff.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. government hunting snitch

LEAK The U.S. Commerce Department is trying to force an environmental group to reveal who leaked the Bush administration's plans to weaken the Endangered Species Act just weeks before President Barack Obama took office. The case suggests the government will continue to pursue and identify federal employees who disclose sensitive documents about controversial policies. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Curt and Deborah Sleeper's home, built in a cave in Festus, Mo.

Loan saves family from giving up cave home

MORTGAGE A Missouri family expects they'll be able to stay in their home built inside a cave after accepting a private mortgage.

Curt Sleeper said yesterday a New Jersey-based business offered a 15-year loan with a low interest rate that should allow the family to keep their home in Festus, about 50 kilometres south of St. Louis.

Curt and Deborah Sleeper fell in love with the unique geography of an old mining cave in 2004 and figured out how to build a house inside of it. But they were having trouble making a large pay-

ment due on the property, prompting them to put their home up for auction on eBay.

The Sleepers built their cave home with the help of friends. A grey timber frame exterior was constructed in the 11-metre-tall opening of the cave. Thirty-seven sliding glass doors also are used as windows throughout the three-storey, three-bedroom home. The walls and ceiling are natural cave stone, but it has amenities including a large soaking tub in one bathroom and a fully equipped kitchen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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No escape plan for would-be burglar

A would-be burglar is in jail after he climbed through a hole in the roof of an Atlanta liquor store and couldn't get back out. Police found Adam Hardeman, 29, in the store restroom with playing cards, lighters and a bottle of gin in his pockets. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Saudi Arabia **Whirlwind of sand**

A sandstorm colours the view of a woman trying to protect herself from sand and dust being carried on strong winds at a compound in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, yesterday.

Sea feud makes waves

China responded sharply yesterday to Washington's accusations over a confrontation at sea, an incident that analysts said could become more common as Beijing strengthens its navy and asserts claims to adjacent waters.

The United States accused Chinese coastal defence ships of surrounding and harassing its navy vessel in international waters, coming within eight metres of surveillance craft USNS Impeccable, stop-

Differing views

- One observer says China believes international law only allows innocent passage for military vessels, not activities that could have military purpose.
- The U.S. believes in unrestricted passage as long as the vessel doesn't encroach on economic interests of the country it is passing.

ping dead in front of it and strewing debris in its path.

Sunday's incident, 120 kilometres south of China's Hainan Island, will likely be discussed when Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi visits Washington this week.

The U.S. refuted the Chinese Foreign Ministry's claims the vessel "broke international and Chinese laws," noting the navy mapping vessel had been conducting "routine operations ... in accordance with customary international law." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

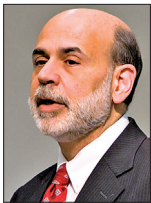
News in brief

SUDAN All non-essential staff and family have been authorized to leave Sudan due to uncertain security conditions, following the expulsion of aid groups from the Darfur region, the U.S. Embassy said yesterday.

CLIMATE Top climate scientists meeting in Copenhagen say that sea levels could rise between 50 centimetres and one metre by the end of the century, due to greenhouse gases. That's twice as much as the 18 to 58 centimetres previously projected in a 2007 report. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

U.S. regulatory system needs overhaul: Fed

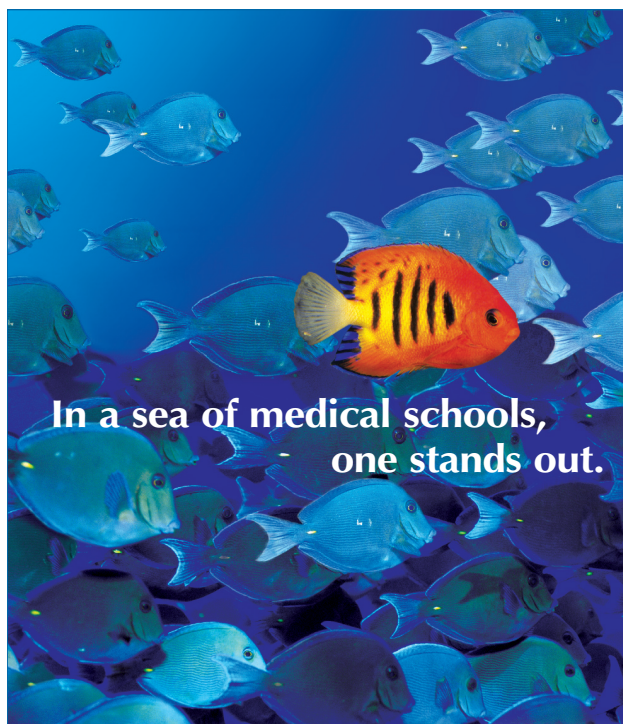
ECONOMY America's financial rule book must be not just its individual components," Bernanke said in a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations. He suggested bolstering mutual funds and a program that insures bank deposits, as well as sufficient capital cushion for all financial firms. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Ben Bernanke

"We must have a strategy that regulates the financial firms."

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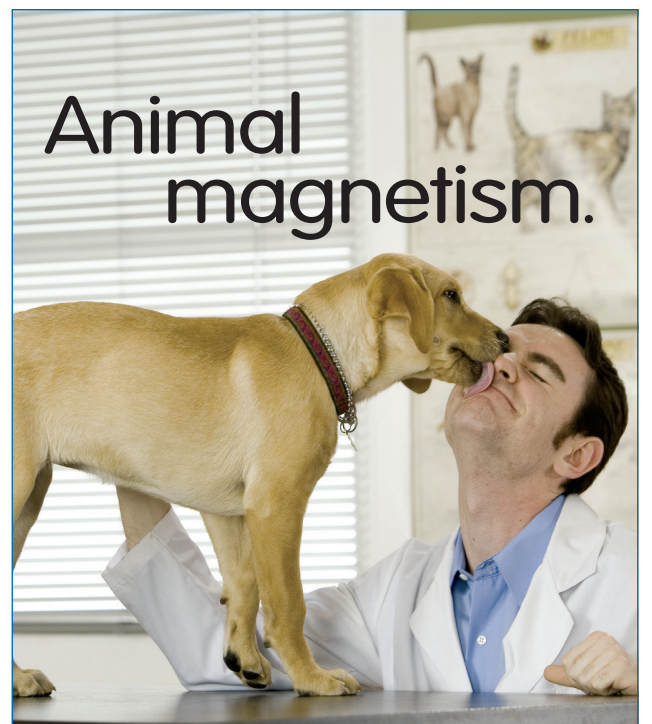
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Comment & Views

Comment

A sign of the times

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

Every Sunday morning at my house, a miracle happens. It's not what you're thinking; although it's the closest thing I have to a spiritual experience.

Because every Sunday morning the Sunday New York Times arrives on my doorstep.

There it is, brimming with substance, weighing in at five pounds (although it's gone on a diet lately) stuffed with "All the News That's Fit to Print." The world's greatest newspaper.

I sit down with a mug of fresh coffee and get lost for a couple of hours with great columnists, fantastic reporting from

around the globe and the New York Times Book Review, my very favourite thing. Via the Sunday Times, I reconnect weekly with the best of civilization.

So how can it be that this miracle is in jeopardy? That the Times, along with at least a dozen other major U.S. newspapers and Canwest, Canada's biggest newspaper chain, are in danger of dying if they aren't, like the Rocky Mountain News in Denver, already dead?

Well, it's a long story, kids, and because it is happening to journalists, it is being reported with extreme diligence. Check out: mediafade.blogspot.com, poynter.org or

j-source.ca for obsessive coverage. And for the unthinkable demise of the Times, go to theatlantic.com and read End Times: Can America's paper of record survive the death of newsprint? Can journalism? Shiver.

The newspaper industry is partially to blame for its own troubles: It has been slow and erratic in its response to the challenge of online and mobile news. You could argue it is a senseless act of wanton destruction to kill trees to publish the National Post. But the industry can hardly be blamed for the demise of the economy or that advertising revenue is drying up faster than ink on the page.

And while I admire the feistiness and pluck of the Metro chain and its commuter model, I have to wonder what

happens the day the big metro dailies die.

The coffee-mug-half-empty analysis is that newspapers and their hand-somely funded newsrooms are the wellspring of the news and all the others — TV, radio and Google — are mainly parasites. And we're going to find out just what we've lost when they're gone.

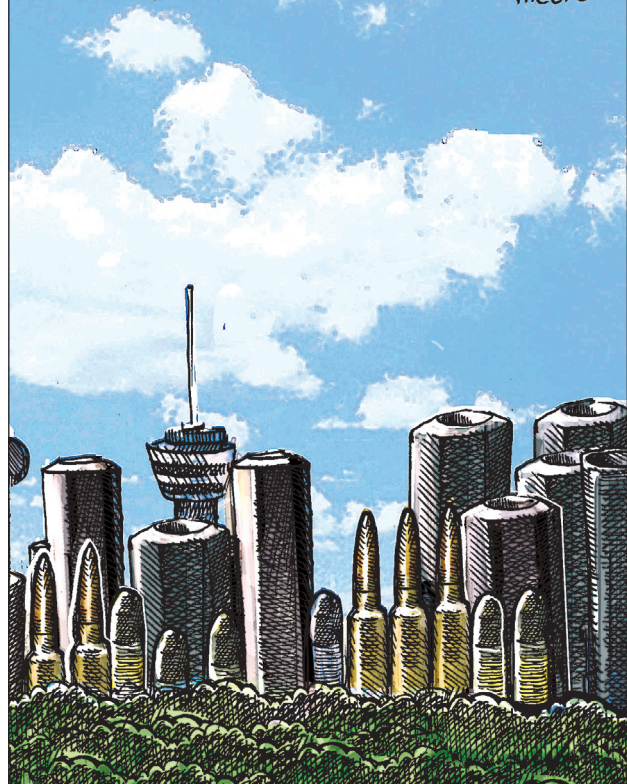
But the coffee-mug-half-full analysis is that while it will change, the news will never die. People will always want to know what's going on and there will always be people with a nose for news who are ready to tell them. Does it matter how we get it, as long as we get it? And anyway, there's no news in a newspaper. By the time we get it, it's a museum, full of stuff we read online at least 24 hours ago. Let it go.

So why can't I let go? I guess I'm finally going to have to face it. While I was standing by the window waiting for the Times, the times just passed me by.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.



VANCOUVER:



Worth mentioning

Acne is another bump from the recession

Here's another bump in the landscape of economic meltdown: Adult acne.

Stress is a leading cause of breakouts, and there's no shortage of that these days in the Oakland, Calif., office of Dr. Katie Rodan. Many of her clients are either in the financial field or have husbands who

breakout, but there isn't usually a collective mass of people experiencing a high-anxiety event like there is right now with the recession.

Dr. Kathy Fields points to a widely circulated Stanford University study from 2002 that found students had more severe acne during ex-

am periods than other times of the year.

"When your cortisol levels go up — and

we're having so many spikes during the day — that aggravates acne," says Fields, a co-founder with Dr. Rodan of the anti-acne formula Proactiv.

It's easier to minimize acne if you get to it before it's fully developed, she says.

If you're not sleeping or if you find yourself picking at your skin even before a pimple appears, she says, you might be helping to trigger a breakout. Instead, use an anti-acne product and manage the stress.

"Try a yoga class," Rodan suggests.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Word on the street: Do you believe news media play an important role in today's society?

Kirsten Bodashefsky
age 23, Toronto

A: They play a large role. Just think of health concerns. As soon as somebody gets sick because of something, everybody freaks out.



Suji Won
age 16, Toronto

A: I think it influences personalities. There are a lot of teens that look at how famous people are acting and then parallel their lives with them.



Sayah Lee
age 29, Toronto

A: It can affect a lot of our emotions. It can desensitize our emotions



Louieza Skaf
age 26, Ottawa

A: Of course. It gives us information and desensitizes us from what's going on in the world. It also prepares us.



Gia Smith
age 39, Calgary

A: Yes, because of the media, people get all the information they need and rely on.



Karl Williams
age 45, Vancouver

A: Definitely. Just because of all the current events that are brought out every day.



It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

U2 souring on Apple?

It looks like U2 has lost its taste for Apple. Canadian company Research in Motion, which makes the BlackBerry, has announced that it will sponsor the Irish supergroup's upcoming tour. U2 previously had a highly publicized relationship with Apple. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Shareholders line up for say on CEO's pay

But votes at annual meetings not binding

The top executives of Canada's big banks are submitting to stockholder votes on their compensation, and these "say on pay" resolutions look set to spread into the rest of corporate Canada.

However, the impact of the voting at annual meetings may not be apparent for years.

"It's a baby step, but it's a very significant baby step," said Bob Verdun, an activist shareholder who has been pressing the issue since the mid-1990s. "It's something that the banks and other corporations have resisted."

But this year, he said, in-

"It's a baby step, but it's a very significant baby step."

Bob Verdun, an activist shareholder

stitutional investors "finally flexed their muscles."

Shareholder resolutions calling for non-binding votes were passed or accepted at the recent annual meetings of the Royal Bank, CIBC, Bank of Nova Scotia and Bank of Montreal. The same resolution is slated for the April 2 meeting of Toronto-Dominion Bank.

Yesterday, TMX Group Inc. became Canada's first

major non-bank corporation to establish say on pay — though not until the 2010 annual meeting.

As at the banks, the vote will be non-binding, "so even if it were to carry, there's no obligation on part of the bank or other corporation to actually heed," Verdun noted.

Bank CEO pay for 2008 ranged from \$6 million to \$11 million in cash, shares, stock options and other compensation, although four of the Big Five bosses declined to accept parts of these amounts in view of last year's steep share-price declines.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

What recession? **Profitable year**



Rejean Robitaille, CEO of Laurentian Bank of Canada, gets set for the company's annual meeting in Montreal yesterday. He told the meeting that Canada's seventh-largest bank is in a good position to expand after its best financial performance ever in 2008 — posting record net profits of \$102.5 million, eight per cent higher than the previous year.

In brief

AUTOS More auto parts workers in Windsor have been laid off. About 50 workers at two stamping plants, Aradco and Aramco, were told Monday night not to report to work yesterday. Both supply parts to Chrysler.

MARKET TMX Group Inc. is helping the London Stock Exchange Group develop its European derivatives market, and is set to become a partner in EDX London. The financial market operator is licensing the So-la trading platform developed by the Montreal Exchange, which combined with the former TSX Group last year to form TMX Group.

JOBS Employment in Canada is expected to slow to its lowest level in 15 years in the second quarter, according to a Manpower survey that shows 15 per cent of employers expect to increase their payrolls while nine per cent expect to make cuts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Markets make triple-digit gains

SURGE Stock markets surged on a huge run-up in bank and insurance shares yesterday after American financial-services giant Citigroup Inc. said it was profitable in the first two months of this year.

Toronto's S&P/TSX index jumped 313.47 points or 4.1 per cent to 7,880.41, powered by a 12 per cent change in the financial sector — the biggest gain this year. New York's Dow Jones industrial average jumped 379.44 points or 5.8 per cent to 6,926.49.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Workology

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Abolish tuition?

What would happen if university tuition were abolished? In the opinion of CBC columnist Heather Mallick, it would rid the PSE system of a mess. Universities would accept only those with a realistic chance of success, class sizes would shrink, grade inflation would become pointless, and dumbing down would be terminated, according to Mallick.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dining at its most romantic

Matters of the Heart

RAFAEL BRUSILOV
for Metro Canada

Food has always been a crucial part of romance and restaurants like Toronto's La Maquette prove that a perfect meal can be the most romantic detail of all.

La Maquette owner Ange Kanavas, 49, says it's her mission to provide not only great food but an unforgettable dining experience as well.

"I always want my guests to have the ultimate experience. When you touch the five senses, you really touch someone's soul. I want to reach out to people," Kanavas said.

Opened in 1983 and taken over by Kanavas in 1993, La Maquette (111 King St. E) has long been one of Toronto's best unkept secrets: Toronto diners voted it the city's most romantic restaurant in 2007 and La Maquette frequently tops magazine surveys for quality of food, venue and service.

Though the restaurant has a distinctly French name (translation: "the model") the food is geared towards healthy, delicious choices instead of classic heavy French sauces, with a broader turn towards Italian flavours as well. Think of it as French-lite, with butter replaced by olive oil and 90 per cent of the ingredients certified organic.

When she took over the restaurant in 1993, Kanavas had no idea what was in store and spent the early days walking out into the



Ange Kanavas is the owner of La Maquette (pictured), which was named Toronto's most romantic restaurant in 2007.



"I am an incurable romantic at heart."

La Maquette owner
Ange Kanavas

street to coax passersby into giving the restaurant a try.

"I invested my last \$1000 in advertising and music and I gave myself three months to either make it or get out of the business completely," she said.

Pulling off the right combination of food, ambiance and romance can be difficult and few restaurants manage to excel in everything the way La Maquette seems to so effortlessly, with a perfect mixture of candlelight, inspirational decor and beautiful food prepared to maximize the effect of subtle aromas.

Kanavas says her secret to achieving romantic perfection at La Maquette is energy, both physical and spiritual.

"If we can set the stage for the energy of the room then the couple doesn't have to work hard to make it romantic. Fine dining is not just about eating — people are looking for something different," Kanavas said.

Gorgeous orchids and stargazer lilies decorate the restaurant and the delicate sounds of piano and guitar music, performed live, fill the air during the evenings. Kanavas meditates regu-

larly to fill the restaurant with positive energy and she has strategically placed amethyst and other crystal geodes throughout the restaurant to channel the energy in the room and create a calming effect.

For Valentine's Day, the restaurant entertained a marriage proposal that ended with the entire dining room clapping.

"I was literally in tears — I am an incurable romantic at heart," Kanavas said.

Kanavas says she never forgets the importance of happy customers.

"I want people to come out and feel good."

For the entire Matters of the Heart exclusive series, stop by: metronews.ca/work

Matters of the Heart takes leave

FEATURE Metro's Workology section and its staff have enjoyed bringing you our latest feature series, Matters of the Heart, where we delved into a world where love and careers meet.

It seemed a pleasant change from our exclusive series in January, Curtain Call — where we dug up some of the morbid jobs in the world of death — and we think we were successful in that regard.

Don't hesitate to visit Metronews.ca/work for archived content from both Matters of the Heart and Curtain Call — the only place where you can read all the articles. And don't miss our next series on Pets and the people that love to work with them.

—DOUGLAS DUNLOP, EDITOR

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Employers entitled to performance

WorkplaceLaw

Daniel Lublin

Metronews.ca/workplacelaw

"Never attribute to malice what can be adequately explained by stupidity."

— UNKNOWN

Sometimes employees too easily confuse who gets to call the legal shots. Believing that their job is an entitlement, some workers try to take the law into their own hands. They are often mistaken. This is the tale of one employee who learned this lesson the hard way.

Working out of the Toronto-area offices of Software developer VoiceGenie Technologies, Crinu Iliescu quickly wore out his welcome. Hired only 15 months earlier as a Software Q.A. Manager, Iliescu had promptly gained the firm's trust — but lost it

just as fast after his response to a manager's email accusing him of underperformance. Iliescu wrote his boss, the HR manager and the president with five demands he required them to meet before he would return to work, putting the company's deadline on a project in peril.

The next day Iliescu did return to work but found that his access to the computer system and security pass had been removed. He was then met with a Performance Improvement Plan, detailing the company's concerns about his behaviour and setting out its expectations from him in the future. Iliescu reacted by rejecting the performance guidelines and declaring that his return to work would occur only when his concerns were fully addressed.

VoiceGenie responded by advising Iliescu that its performance plan was not negotiable or subject to his approval and that he was to immediately return to work. When Iliescu did not, VoiceGenie concluded



If you feel slighted by your employer because they have issued you a performance improvement plan, do not react angrily because this will likely be considered insubordination and you may be fired.

that he had abandoned his position and fired him. Believing that he had been wrongfully dismissed, Iliescu sued the company and its president for nearly \$1 million.

At trial, Justice Randall Echlin found Iliescu had not been constructively dismissed by VoiceGenie. It was simply not open to Iliescu to reject the perform-

ance plan and provide his employer with an ultimatum that it must meet his concerns. VoiceGenie had a "legal right to require a minimum level of performance," and instead of working with his employer, Iliescu became adversarial, thinking he was entitled to negotiate terms, wrote Justice Echlin. When Iliescu refused to work after re-

ceiving notice that his attendance was required, he effectively resigned.

Iliescu simply lost sight of who was entitled to call the shots. When this occurs, an employer may be able to treat the employee's actions as insubordination, or worse, as Iliescu learned — cause for his own dismissal.

This decision serves as a

reminder that employers own their workplaces and have the right to manage them as they see fit. While employees do retain certain rights, rejecting a reasonable performance improvement plan is usually a poor option. Employees should consider the following:

- Report to work when told to do so. By absenting himself without a justifiable reason, Iliescu effectively resigned.
- You cannot reject outright a performance improvement plan. Even if such a plan is imposed in bad faith (which often does occur), you should protest in writing and continue to perform your job in the meantime. You retain the right to complain at a later time without jeopardizing your own continued employment.
- Do not go to court without a lawyer. Iliescu argued his own case, and it clearly showed in the decision.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal. dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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Management mistakes revealed

ECONOMY Managing employees is never easy, but it poses a particular challenge when teams are lean and the economy is uncertain. While some of the obstacles businesses are grappling with may be new, the strategies they can use to foster teamwork in a troubled economy are not, according to specialized staffing service Robert Half International. The firm's just-released guide, *The 30 Most Common Mistakes Managers Make in an Uncertain Economy*, outlines prevalent pitfalls and how to avoid them. Here are the

most prevalent mistakes managers make according to Robert Half:

- Thinking your staff can't handle the truth. If you haven't before, now is the time to treat employees like business partners.
- Blaming those at the top. If you're a middle manager who has to deliver bad news, you may be inclined to tell employees that you would have done things differently, but the choice wasn't yours. While this may temporarily take the heat off of you, it sends the message that you are out of sync with the com-

pany's leaders.

• Feeling people are lucky just to have a job. It may be true that many employees feel fortunate to have a stable position, but this doesn't mean managers can ignore staff members' desire for positive recognition and career support.

• Not asking for employees' help in expanding client relationships. Ask staff members to think about things they can do to help achieve business goals without sacrificing productivity.

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Biblical Satan analyzed for TVO's Best Lecturer series

Lecture series

BRIAN TOWIE
for Metro Canada



Paul Stevens believes, quite literally, that the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

So much so, in fact, that the literature professor at the University of Toronto has given a dissertation on the ultimate biblical bad guy, Satan, set to air on March 14 on TVO's Big Ideas, as part of their Ontario's Best Lecturer series.

The lesson, entitled Milton's Satan, analyzes the devil's role in John Milton's Paradise Lost. Written by 17th Century English author John Milton, the work sets the foundations of Judeo-Christian literature to epic poetry, chronicling Satan's open defiance of God to his fall from Heaven to the temptation of Adam and Eve.

"Milton's Satan is an intensely attractive figure, es-



Paul Stevens lectures on the Satan found in Milton's Paradise Lost.

pecially today. He's one of the earliest examples we have of the anti-hero who doesn't submit to authority, in this case God's will," Stevens says. "But it's all deception, all part of how seductive the character can be. His actions are greatly based on his own arrogance and delusion and as the books progress, you realize how disastrous a figure he really is."

The book has been inter-

preted in a seemingly infinite number of ways since it was first published in 1667, and has inspired artists down the generations (from William Blake to Salvador Dali to scores of heavy metal bands). But for his take on it, Stevens points to the importance of who Milton was and the world in which he lived when he wrote the epic.

Milton lived a great deal of his life bucking the status

quo. His Catholic father disinherited him for embracing Protestantism. Milton also supported the overthrow of the English monarchy, writing defences of Oliver Cromwell's republican government and suggesting regicide during the English Civil Wars. The armed conflicts between parliamentarians and royalists devastated Britain and Ireland from 1642-1651, leaving hundreds of thousands dead in their wake according to historical estimates.

Which brings Stevens to his point: Milton isn't writing about Satan so much as he's using him as a kind of allegory for self-analysis.

"He's writing about himself," says Stevens. "Milton wrote in support of events that eventually led to atrocities."

"In this he's leading the reader into the very nature of evil itself, of how an individual can go wrong if they don't step out of the narrative they set up for themselves."



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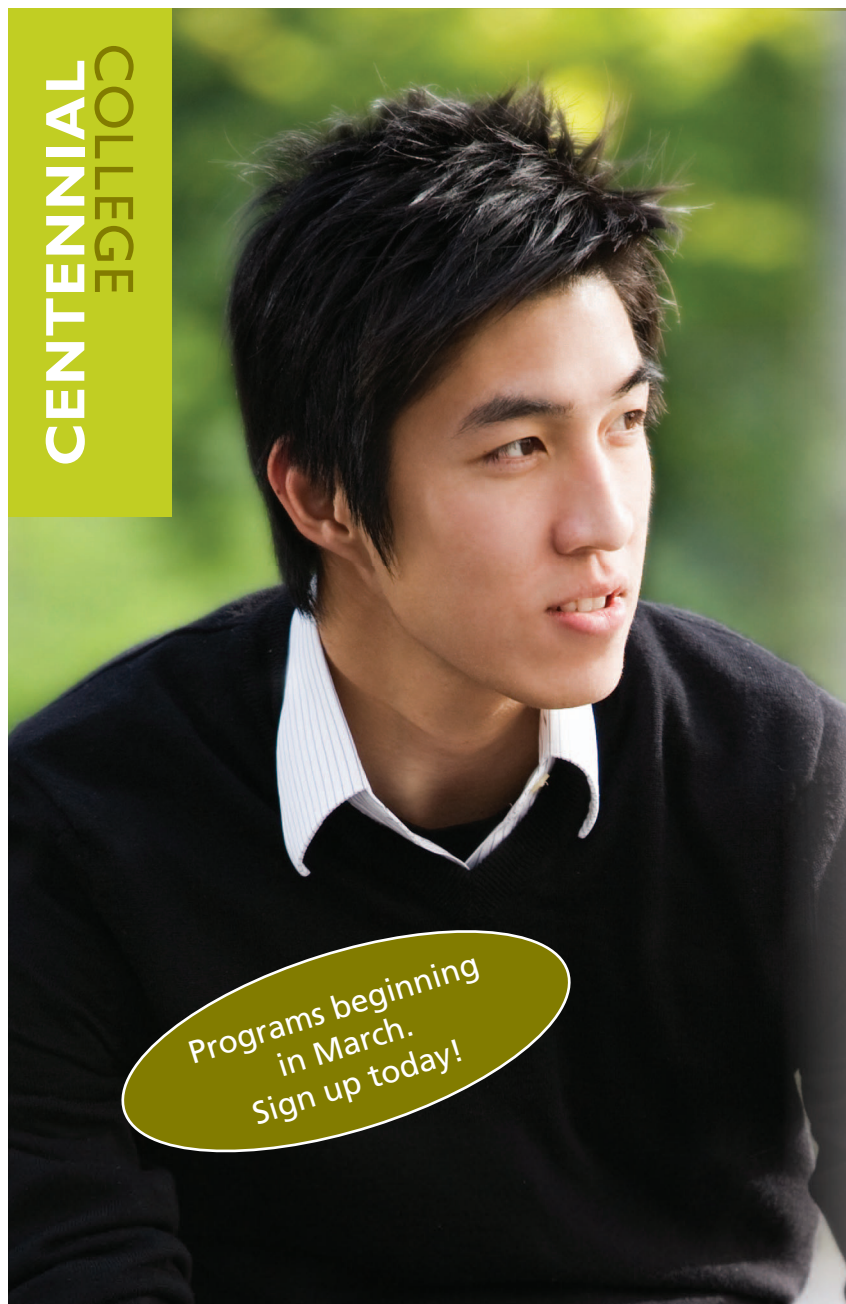
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If animals commit murder, does that make it natural?

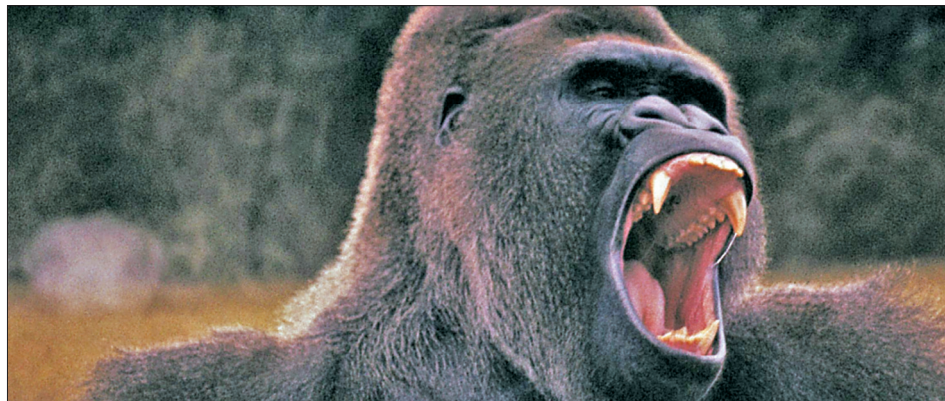
Lecture series

BRIAN TOWIE
for Metro Canada

Is murder part of natural life, or an anomaly of behaviour? Shawn Lehman wants to find out.

The anthropology professor at the University of Toronto will discuss death in the animal kingdom in his lecture Primate Infanticide: Adaptation Or Social Pathology on Sunday March 15 as part of TVO's Ontario's Best Lecturer series on Big Ideas.

A controversial subject to say the least, primate infanticide deals with the killing of offspring in ape species. This can happen in various ways for a number of reasons: An alpha male ape may defeat another male



Shawn Lehman's lecture focuses on murder why it occurs in the animal kingdom.

for control of a "harem" of female apes, for example, then kill the offspring of the rival ape.

The question, Lehman says, is this: Is primate infanticide part of how animals naturally evolve or is it this a pathological pattern of behaviour that can only be detrimental to a species? "Are we working towards

evolution or are these just a bunch of crazy monkeys running around killing each other?" he asks. "There are well-known cases where chimpanzees, our closest natural relative, have behaved like this, and yet it doesn't benefit them in any way."

So if our closest relative can kill indiscriminately,

does that explain away murderous behaviour in humans? Yes and no, according to Lehman.

"How do you assess it?" he said. "We are subject to a lot of the same biological imperatives and what they do can offer some insight, but humans are even more complex. We do things that animals don't do."

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METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Service in time saves dime

Understanding maintenance manual crucial, expert says

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada



We've all felt the current recession's sting in one way or another, and an honest reaction would be to try and save as much money as possible by doing things ourselves rather than paying someone else. Doing basic maintenance and repairs on your vehicle can be simple. However, they have become so complicated in recent years that you can get in a lot of trouble very easily if something goes wrong.

Gary Grant, service manager at Willowdale Subaru in Toronto, and an automotive expert who currently contributes to TheGarageBlog.com and DrivenWheels.com, advises: "Do a bit of research. Read the maintenance section of the owner's manual. Understand what the manufacturer considers important. Because we live in Canada, follow the manufacturer's 'severe' service schedule," he said.

"I'm often asked, 'Can't I do that myself?' My response is usually something along the lines of, 'I don't know. I'm not sure of what skills you have.' For the most part, the basics like oil changes haven't changed in terms of difficulty. However, oil changes are more important now than ever due to tighter build tolerances in engines. Do them on time. Don't reach for the cheap filter, buy the good one. Don't



Apart from simple do-it-yourself checks, it's important to know and take care of those aspects of vehicles that need regular maintenance to avoid costly repairs in the future, car expert Gary Grant advises.

miss an interval, ever."

Grant said that tire rotation could be a realistic task for those with proper equipment.

CarCareCanada.ca, a website that helps consumers understand more about their own vehicles, suggests other simple tasks that you can do yourself.

First, ensure that all your lights are functioning properly, including turn signals and brake lights. These are usually very easy to replace if they're burnt out. Next, check all the fluid levels under your hood, including engine oil, windshield washer, antifreeze/coolant and transmission fluid. Check the

Riding the Recession

terminals on your vehicle's battery for corrosion, and if you find some, have your technician clean them the next time your car's in for service.

Wiper blades and the frames themselves are also very easy to change, and you can purchase replacements at any auto parts store.

CarCareCanada.ca also recommends keeping good tire pressure to ensure your vehicle performs as it's supposed to, including fuel mileage.

"If you don't understand what the service adviser is telling you, ask for more details. Don't agree to something you don't understand or feel skeptical about."

Gary Grant, Subaru service manager

Preventative maintenance is also vital to keeping your vehicle in top shape, and only a drop in the bucket compared to what you might pay if something goes horribly wrong.

"There are more than a few tales of consumers buying a new engine at 50,000 km because they missed a couple of oil changes and the engine failed," Grant warned.

Educating yourself is key. "Learn the meaning behind some common automotive terms so you understand what the service adviser is telling you," Grant recommends. "If you don't understand what the service adviser is telling you, ask for more details. Don't agree to something you don't understand or feel skeptical about."

More kudos for Genesis

SAFETY The 2009 North American Car of the Year Hyundai Genesis sedan bolstered its resume with a top safety pick rating from the U.S.-based Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS).

Hyundai's all-new flagship earned a "good" overall evaluation in side impact, frontal offset and rear crash tests, the highest ranking awarded by the Institute.

To qualify for a top safety pick, a vehicle must earn the highest rating of "good" in the Institute's front, side, and rear tests and be equipped with ESC.

Criteria to win are tough because the award is intended to drive continued safety improvements such as top crash test ratings and the rapid addition of ESC, which is standard on the Genesis.

According to IIHS, 51 per cent of driver deaths in newer models occurred in side impacts so the Institute's side-impact test is severe.

The Genesis performed well in side-impact tests and earned a "good" overall evaluation. The report notes that both driver's and passengers' head and neck are protected against "being hit by any hard structures."

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The Alfa Romeo MiTo GTA concept.

Supercars save day

EMMA E FORREST
Metro World News



The Geneva Motor Show offered a welcome relief from global gloom and doom with a showcase of some of the most powerful supercars ever built.

The most outrageous is the lemon-yellow Lamborghini Murcielago LP 670-4 SuperVeloce. The 6.5-litre V12 engine delivers a ferocious 670bhp, 0-100 km/h in 3.2 seconds and a top speed of 342 km/h.

As Lamborghini poetically explains of this limited edition of 350, "from the heavy rumble of a stormy night, through the trumpeting of mighty elephants to the roar of a raging lion, the SuperVeloce performs the grand opera for 12

cylinders, 48 valves and 8000 revs."

Meanwhile, the 700bhp Ferrari 599XX is an experimental prototype based on the 599 GTB Fiorano. Despite the 1.1 million Euro price tag you can't race it or drive it on the road; it will be offered to a selected group of

"client test drivers" who will experience the car's F1-inspired technologies at a series of exclusive track events.

Other mouth-watering supercars included the limited edition Bugatti Veyron Bleu Centenaire, the gorgeous Maserati GranTurismo S Automatic and the fastest-ever Bentley, the 621bhp 6.0-litre W12 flex-fuel Continental Superports.

Luxury car-

Lamborghini waxed poetic about the Murcielago LP 670-4 SuperVeloce at the Geneva auto show.



Big change coming in small-car thinking

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

metronews.ca/autopilot

North America is not the natural habitat of the tiny car.

The tiny car thrives better wherever the air is thick with French or Asian cigarette smoke, and/or wherever there is incessant horn honking. Basically any place where city driving is considered blood sport.

We have congested urban centres too, but not as many and not as big, and between them are provinces and states where bears are still on top of the food chain.

We never liked or needed those tiny, "furrin" cars, and they didn't like us. With some notable exceptions, we've pretty much stayed our separate ways. But, as Mr. Bob Dylan likes to sing, "the times they are a-changing."

There has been a convergence of several developments of late, all of which point to more interesting tiny cars on North American roads. We have the gas and environment thing happening of course, and there is more urbanization. There is also globalization — automakers need to spread their new-car investments over many countries, and there is a push to harmonize international standards.

But the most important development has really been the cars themselves — the automakers have finally



The Chevrolet Spark debuted at the Geneva auto show.

ly realized that North Americans will buy into small cars too, if the vehicles are more character driven. Historically, the feeling was, if you're driving a small hatch, it wasn't by choice — you didn't care about cars, and just needed something to get from A to

B, or such a car was all you could afford.

So the automakers obliged us, by making these rides very price-driven and commodity like, and with the corresponding personality and fashion sense of a chest freezer.

The re-born Mini essen-

Top 4 coolest cars at Geneva show



MITSUBISHI MIEV SPORT AIR:

Very cool-looking compact sports EV concept.

RINSPEED ICHANGE:

The latest concept from gimmick-fan's carmaker with reconfigurable seating and wool interior.



OPEL AMPERA CONCEPT:

Opel's slick-looking hybrid concept.



KOENIGSEGG QUANT CONCEPT:

Solar-powered supercar.



tially broke that way of thinking by showing that car buyers will gladly hop into something compact and pay a premium for the privilege, if it exudes that certain something (which the industry calls "appeal"). Other cool small cars in this new mould are Honda Fit and Smart.

Size-wise, the Mini and Fit are what the industry calls B-segment cars. One of the most notable "appealing" B segment cars on the horizon is the 2010 Ford Fiesta — a very smart, modern design, almost a foot shorter than the new Fit.

And not to be outdone, Chevrolet recently unveiled an even smaller, and equally appealing, A-segment car, the Spark, at the Geneva auto show.

European models will be powered by a new 1.2-litre engine, capable of going 100

km on less than five litres of gas. But its main claim to future fame is that unlike other minute cars, it eschews cuteness for toughness. It was created at GM's Korean studio, and designers noted that it is one small car that is not afraid of big SUVs.

Speculation is that we'll see Sparks on North American roads sometime in 2010 (as 2011 models). If you see one on the road then, I would advise caution. Because, as you know, the only thing worse than crossing up a brute, is crossing up a short person with an axe to grind. I for one remember when my kids were going through the terrible twos, and, believe me, I prefer not to revisit that experience.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.



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Intelligent Elantra

Hatchback covers driving needs of most buyers

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada



With cars, size isn't everything. When hatchbacks are thoughtfully designed, they'll hold a lot more than their small footprints would suggest. That's the case with Hyundai's newest compact version, the 2009 Elantra Touring.

This isn't just an Elantra sedan with a liftgate, as was the case with the Elantra Hatchback, last seen for 2006. It's a model known as the i30 in Europe, Australia and Asia, and while it shares the Elantra's 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine, it has a different platform. European models are built in the Czech Republic, while ours come from Korea.

Four trim lines range from \$14,995 to \$21,195, with an extra \$1,200 on each to switch from five-speed manual to four-speed automatic.

At 138 horsepower, the Touring isn't the most powerful in the segment, but this isn't really a category for brute strength. It feels lively enough, even

2009 Hyundai Elantra Touring

Type: Compact hatchback
Price: \$14,995-\$21,195
Engine: 2.4L four-cylinder
HP: 138

Highlights

- Small but spacious
- Affordable pricing

when climbing hills, and gets loud only when punched hard to get around highway traffic.

Handling is much better than expected, with nicely-weighted steering, minimal body lean in corners, small steering wheel, and smooth return from sharp curves. The ride is firm, but while you feel bumps on bad roads, the suspension doesn't crash over them.

The i30 comes in two wheelbase lengths, but our Touring exclusively uses the larger 2,700-mm one, which is longer than any of the challengers Hyundai is targeting — and a long wheelbase helps with a smoother ride.

The base L trim line

The 2009 Hyundai Elantra Touring isn't just an Elantra sedan with a liftgate, as was the case with the Elantra Hatchback, last seen for 2006.



comes with power windows and locks, but you must move up to the Preferred Package, at \$2,250 more, to get A/C, keyless entry, heated seats, side and curtain airbags, anti-lock brakes, and active front head restraints, which help prevent whiplash. What's missing on all models is electronic stability control. It's standard or optional elsewhere, including the U.S., but not offered here because it would have pushed the price too high, Hyundai Canada says.

This is where I'm supposed to scold about how important this feature is, and I'd like to, given our oft-slippery Canadian roads and the fact that entry-level buyers are often young, inexperienced drivers. But the reality is that even inexpensive cars rep-



Inside, legroom is considerable both front and rear, and Hyundai says its cargo volume is the class leader: 689 litres with the rear seats up, and 1,848 with them folded.

resent a lot of money, and with automakers trying to meet what buyers will pay, Hyundai isn't the only one. Among competitors, ESC is standard only on

the pricier Pontiac Vibe and Subaru Impreza; it's optional on VW Rabbit and Saturn Astra, elective only on higher trim levels of Toyota Matrix and

Dodge Caliber, and unavailable on the 2009 Mazda3, Kia Spectra5 and Nissan Versa.

Legroom is considerable both front and rear, and Hyundai says its cargo volume is the class leader: 689 litres with the rear seats up, and 1,848 with them folded. Low-slung "shingle-style" rear head restraints don't need to be removed to fold the seats, and they aid rearward visibility, along with generous rear quarter windows that make shoulder-checks easier than with many hatchbacks.

In this crowded segment, Hyundai hasn't quite brought a gun to the knife-fight, but it's got a very sharp blade. Intelligently sized, nice to drive and well-finished, it should be more than enough for many buyers' needs.

Aston Martin Volante: Gone with the wind

The new Aston Martin DBS Volante will afford customers the combination of the DBS's already-established benchmark sports car characteristics with all the thrills of open-air motoring.

Broadening the DBS's character, the DBS Volante will appeal to drivers who wish to combine the excitement of driving a finely tuned sports car with the invigorating feeling of being open to the elements.

Featuring a motorized retractable fabric roof, the DBS's beautiful profile is preserved whether up or down. When the roof is closed, it provides a warm comfortable ambience and when open, it neatly disappears behind the new tonneau cover at the touch of a button.

Power is provided by Aston Martin's hand-built all alloy 6.0-litre V12 engine producing 510 hp and 420 lb ft of torque with a top

The Aston Martin DBS Volante completes the DBS range. Powered by a 512 hp V12, it has a top speed of over 300 km/h.



speed of 191 mph (307 km/h) and 0-62 mph (0-100 km/h) time of 4.3 seconds.

The nature of the V12, and in particular the torque available at all engine speeds, serves to provide effortless driving in all situations.

Aston Martin's 16th convertible in 95 years, the DBS Volante draws on the marque's extensive experience in designing iconic Volantes and is a 2+2 featuring two occasional rear

Aston Martin's 16th convertible in 95 years, the DBS Volante draws on the marque's extensive experience in designing iconic Volantes and is a 2+2 featuring two occasional rear seats, ideal for young people or extra luggage.

seats, ideal for young people or extra luggage.

In standard specification, the DBS has a rear-mounted six-speed manual gearbox, while an auto-

matic six-speed Touchtronic option is also available.

As with the coupe, the Volante is offered with carbon ceramic brakes as standard providing excep-

tional stopping power.

Benefiting from materials derived from the motorsport and aerospace industries, the hood, front wings and truck lid are made from carbon fibre all helping to reduce weight.

The DBS Volante also comes with Bang & Olufsen's renowned BeoSound DBS in-car entertainment system, featuring 13 speakers as standard equipment.

FROM CARGUIDE

Mercedes 10K race off to swift start

RUNNING While Canadian 10k races average just 300 participants in their first year, the excitement behind the inaugural Mercedes-Benz 10k is off to a very brisk start.

It will be held April 26. The race starts and finishes at Appleby College in Oakville. It will benefit United Way of Oakville.

Organizers of the Mercedes-Benz 10k have so far confirmed the participation of more than 250 in the initial few weeks of registration. That momentum will soon be kicked into the next gear with the addition of the race's presenting sponsor, New Balance.

The Mercedes-Benz 10k is the only race in the country that will give away a new car to a finisher of the 10-kilometre course.

Visit mercedes10k.com for more details.

FROM CARGUIDE

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CONSUMERS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING: Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. Limited time offers are subject to change without notice. *New starting prices are calculated after subtracting dealer participation and stackable credits off the 2009 MSRP. Starting prices of a new 2009 SX4 Sedan with manual transmission (Model S3L83J9), 2009 SX4 Hatchback with manual transmission (Model H3N83H9) and 2009 Grand Vitara with manual transmission (Model LLNB0S9), after subtracting dealer participation credits of \$500/\$500/\$500 and stackable credits of \$1,900/\$1,900/\$2,500, are \$14,995/\$14,995/\$22,995. \$1,395/\$1,395/\$1,550 destination and delivery charge, administration fee, \$75 tax for fuel conservation (where applicable), duties on new tires (where applicable), \$72 PPSA (where applicable), other taxes, license, insurance, applicable fees and registration are extra. ⁰Limited time finance offers available to qualified retail customers on approved credit. 0%/0%/0% purchase financing APR for a 36/36/36 month term. Financing example: the monthly payment of a new 2009 SX4 Sedan with manual transmission (Model S3L83J9), after subtracting dealer participation credits of \$500 and stackable credits of \$1,900, at 0% purchase financing APR is \$417 per month for 36 months. Cost of borrowing is \$0 for a total obligation of \$14,995. Financing example does not include \$1,395 destination and delivery charge, administration fee, \$75 tax for fuel conservation (where applicable), duties on new tires (where applicable), \$72 PPSA (where applicable), other taxes, license, insurance, applicable fees and registration. +Prices of models shown, 2009 SX4 Sedan Sport with manual transmission (Model S3L83K9), 2009 SX4 Hatchback JX with automatic transmission (Model H3N84J9) and 2009 Grand Vitara JLX with automatic transmission (Model L2NB5V9), after subtracting stackable credits of \$1,400/\$1,400/\$2,000, are \$17,945/\$18,595/\$26,995. \$1,395/\$1,395/\$1,550 destination and delivery charge, administration fee, \$75 tax for fuel conservation (where applicable), duties on new tires (where applicable), \$72 PPSA (where applicable), other taxes, license, insurance, applicable fees and registration are extra. Certain conditions apply. Dealers may sell for less. Information shown is based on the latest available information at the time of print. See participating dealers for conditions and details. Offers end April 30, 2009. ©2009 Suzuki Canada Inc.

Small price for Lexus luxury

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada



In the current automotive climate, entry-level luxury sedans may not be everyone's first choice.

But at the same time, buyers have a lot of selection and dealers are very anxious to sell.

One good example of such a sedan that combines sophisticated engineering and design is the 2009 Lexus IS series.

The IS 250 starts at \$31,500 for the rear-wheel-drive (RWD) with six-speed manual transmission or \$33,100 with a six-speed automatic. The IS 250 all-wheel-drive (AWD) as tested starts at \$37,650. Also in the IS series is the IS 350 rear-drive at \$42,950. Lastly there is the potent IS-F high performance car at \$65,450 that is really in a class of its own.

A 2.5-litre DOHC V6 producing 204 hp and 185 lb/ft of torque powers the IS 250. The IS 350 has a DOHC 3.5-litre V6 making 306 hp and 277 lb/ft of torque.

Canadians are migrating to AWD, making the IS 250 one of a handful of luxury AWD sedans you can buy for under forty grand.

Fuel consumption numbers for the 2009 IS 250



The 2009 IS sedan is the Lexus entry-level luxury car with a choice of two engines, two transmission, front- or all-wheel-drive and starting at \$31,500.

AWD are 10.5L/100 km city, 7.6L/100 km highway. By comparison, numbers for the IS 250 RWD are 9.8L/100 km city, 6.7L/100 km highway, so the AWD does use slightly more gas.

For 2009, all IS models are equipped with Lexus' Vehicle Dynamics Integrated Management (VDIM) that is combined with Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) and traction control. VDIM in simple terms takes information from sensors and compares it to the way the IS is being driven against what

the driver is doing. The system then can anticipate when a slide is starting to happen and make little corrections to the steering, braking and gas pedal. In most cases, it is transparent to the driver.

When the driver gets in over his/her head that's when the VSC and traction control come into action. When this is combined with AWD, you get a sedan that can think, and more importantly, react faster than you can when comes to road holding.

To all this is added ABS, Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD) and brake assist (BA) as standard. IS models have vented discs front and solids at the rear while the IS 350 have vented discs at all four corners.

I took the IS 250 AWD up to speed over a long section with undulations and frost heaves coupled with cold patches that had been applied over many years. Add in the high crowning to speed water runoff and you have a piece of pavement that is a test for any suspen-



The 2009 Lexus IS 250 interior is typical Lexus in that all shut lines, seams and even stitching have no flaws.

sion.

At an indicated 60 km/h I knew the wheels were going up and down like a jackhammer, but you wouldn't have known it in the cabin.

Lexus calls the six-speed automatic in the IS its Super Electronically Controlled Transmission. The concept is to electronically link up and down shifts to pedal position and power demand for best fuel economy and performance. In real life, unless you hammer the gas, you will never feel the gears changing.

The passenger compartment is typically Lexus in that not a panel, seam or stitch is out of place. The leather and plastics are wonderful and the seats

2009 Lexus IS 250 AWD

Type: Entry-level luxury sedan
Price: \$37,650 (as tested)
Engine: 2.5L DOHC V6
HP: 284
Torque: 185 lb/ft

Highlights

- Luxury sedan at an affordable price
- Several safety features

themselves are supportive without that cushy feeling you get with some leather interiors.

Outwardly, the same styling you find on the LS premium luxury sedan is evident on the IS, letting people know that, yes, you do drive a Lexus.

A bike ride to remember

What do you get an 84-year-old lady for her birthday? That's what Carol Brown was thinking a few weeks ago. Her mother, June Pearce, was turning 84. The idea of buying and giving more stuff just didn't appeal to Brown.

"When you're 84, what is there?" she thought.

Pearce lives in a slow-paced retirement area near Lake Okeechobee in rural Florida. She's been married to the same man, Fred, for 64 years. Pearce is a wife and a mother. She's had a few strokes, which have robbed her mind of short-term memories. Lung cancer has claimed much of her strength.

But one memory has stuck with her: riding on the back of a boy's motorcycle in the 1930s.

"I wasn't scared at all," Pearce remembers.

It was exciting, possibly one of the most thrilling moments of her life. Pearce remembered sliding off the bike and the pain of scraping her leg, but loving it just the same.

Brown thought of that

"What we're giving today is a memory."

Carol Brown about her mother's bike ride on her 84th birthday

story as she racked her brain, wondering what to do about the birthday. Then she had an idea.

"Come Give Granny A Ride On Your Hog," she typed into an ad on Craigslist.

In the Internet posting, Brown asked if anyone would be willing to ride out and give Pearce a ride for her 84th birthday. She got one response, from a man named Ron Borowski. He said he'd ride his Harley-Davidson Low Rider — electric blue, with dark blue flames and a chrome kickstand shaped like a skeleton's foot — from his house in Palm Beach County to June and Fred Pearce's home, some 100 kilometres away.

"My mom passed away from cancer, so the ad touched me," said Borowski.

ki, 45. "I just figured it would be an adventure."

When Borowski arrived at June Pearce's home and asked if she wanted to take a ride. Pearce shook her head — how on earth would she ever get on the bike? "No way," she said firmly.

Borowski and Brown said they'd help her on. Pearce ran her hands on the black leather and, with a bit more coaxing, sat on the bike near the tank. She allowed her leg to be swung over the seat and then Borowski gently lifted her onto the back.

"I wish I was a lot younger," Pearce said, adjusting her helmet.

She wrapped her arms around Borowski's chest and he took off, slowly. They went around the block twice, and Pearce wore a tiny smile as they rumbled into the driveway.

"What we're giving today is a memory," said Brown. "She's not going to get rid of it in a garage sale, break it or throw it away. Memories are the best gifts, I think."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The French government is promoting tours of the country's storied vineyards to help counter falling wine sales. A newly created Wine Tourism Board will market wine tourism circuits and establish a national wine tourism prize. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Travel



Don't knock Vegas

Las Vegas casino mogul Sheldon Adelson has launched a contest to find the most boring city in the U.S., in retaliation for President Barack Obama's view that companies receiving bailout money shouldn't spend it on corporate trips. However, the contest has already backfired somewhat — for one, it's prompted Tom Leonard, a columnist for the U.K.'s Daily Telegraph, to describe in detail why he feels Las Vegas should be nominated for the honour. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Caye Caulker's laid-back lifestyle

Belize backpacker haven is quite content to fly under the radar

DAVID WHITLEY
for Metro Canada



As the sun slowly crawls down the skyline, the cares of the world are far away. At a table almost enveloped in water, a group sits in their swimwear, knocking back beers number eight and nine.

They're cheering on the guys by the diving board, who are attempting ever more ambitious plunges into the fast-flowing channel that divides the two halves of the island.

The crowd gathered at the Lazy Lizard bar are a clue to what Caye Caulker offers. Off the coast of Belize and situated next to the world's second biggest barrier reef, it has become something of a secret backpacker hotspot.

Caye Caulker doesn't have any beach worth speaking of, and this is arguably what helps it to retain its character. The resorts are never going to take over in the same way that they have on Ambergris Caye further north purely because the masses have no sandy stretches to lie on.

It's an island of bright clapboard guesthouses, an anything goes attitude and a slow, shuffling pace. Within minutes of arriving, hectic hurrying is reduced to a contented



A view of the waterfront in Caye Caulker. Because the destination doesn't have the same kind of sandy stretches as Ambergris Caye to the north, resorts haven't taken over.

shamble along the colourful main drag, and two-for-one daiquiris before lunch seem mighty tempting.

It's a seriously relaxed place. Everything works on island time, happy hours last "until everyone is happy," and any sartorial advance on shorts and flip-flops is completely overdressed.

Many visitors to Caye Caulker are lured by diving or snorkelling trips with rays and manatees, but stay because of the vibe. It's the sort of place that

Caye Caulker

- There are no direct flights to Belize City from Canada — flights with American Airlines, aa.com, from major hubs generally involve a change in Miami.
- From Belize City, it's necessary to get a ferry to Caye Caulker. Geckos Adventures,

geckosadventures.com, has a 10-day tour between Cancun, Mexico and Antigua, Guatemala, which stops off at Caye Caulker for two nights.

- Visit gocayecaulker.com.

DAVID WHITLEY/
FOR METRO CANADA

sucks people in. Many will come for two days, extend for a couple more and before they know it, they've not seen their family for 12

years.

Hence, the ranks of those that live on Caye Caulker are multinational. Boat skippers from



Drinking at the table in the pool at the Lazy Lizard.



A grocery store on Caye Caulker.

Nicaragua, crews from Canada, dive shop managers from the U.K. and grocery store owners from

China are common.

It's a place where the

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FINNAIR
WHY FLY ANY OTHER WAY



Recession or not, Montreal officials are adamant the crowds will flow into the city for summer attractions such as the Montreal International Jazz fest, seen here in this file photo.

Make most of tight times in Montreal

City is set to stage a bevy of summer events despite the downturn

Montreal is poised to be festival central this summer, recession or not. There will be music and comedy and much more in the city, which will also see the anniversaries of several of its most successful events.

The Montreal International Jazz Festival is turning 30. The Cirque du soleil, the international fireworks festival and the Montreal Bike Fest, which culminates with the Tour de l'île cycling event, all turn 25. But that only scratches the surface of what's going on.

Marie-Josée Pinsonneault, a spokeswoman for Tourism Montreal, reels off a list of attractions, including an exhibition on pirates, an avant-garde music festival and a beer festival where more than 400 types of brew can be sampled.

"I think it will be a rediscovery of all the great opportunities, venues and festivals that Montreal offers every summer," she said of the jam-packed events calendar. She acknowledged travellers may be have their wallets on their minds this year, "But I'm sure everybody will need a bit of holidays and everybody will need something to change their minds."

She added that the currency exchange rate should

A full itinerary

Some of the major events in Montreal this summer:

- Cirque du soleil, April 23-July 12, cirquedusoleil.com.
- Montreal Bike Fest, May 30-June 7, velo.qc.ca.
- Mondial de la biere beer festival, June 3-7, festivalmondialbiere.qc.ca.
- Nuit blanche sur tableau noir visual arts street festival, June 4-7, tableaunoir.com.
- Montreal Fringe Festival, June 11-21, montrealfringe.ca.
- L'International des Feux international fireworks festival, June 13-Aug. 15, internationaldesfeuxloto-quebec.com

ionaldesfeuxloto-quebec.com

- Montreal International Jazz Festival, July 1-12, montrealjazzfest.com.
- Just for Laughs International Comedy Festival, July 16-26, hahaha.com.
- Les FrancoFolies de Montreal, July 30-Aug. 9, francfolies.com.
- Rogers Cup tennis tournament, Aug. 8-16, rogerscup.com.
- NASCAR Nationwide Series, Aug. 29-30, circuitgillesvilleneuve.ca.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

also boost Montreal's tourism industry; a quarter of the city's tourists hail from the U.S., while half are Canadian.

The jazz festival and the Just for Laughs comedy festival are two of the anchors of what's going on.

Bruce Hills, head of the Just for Laughs festival, says his event will soon announce the big-name headliners already booked.

"We plan on a big, star-studded, fantastic event for the summer," Hills said, although he acknowledged it may have to be fine-tuned if some corporate sponsors who have not yet confirmed their presence opt to bow out.

Hills said Just for Laughs will still offer economical package deals, which he expects to be "even more in demand with the (economic) climate the way it is."

About a dozen shows have been announced for the jazz festival with more to come. Legendary gui-

tarist Jeff Beck, bluesman Buddy Guy and the festive Pink Martini are among those on the bill.

A spokesperson said all sponsors are on board this year, and organizers are even adding an extra day this year, as it does for every five-year anniversary.

The prestigious Rogers Cup tennis tournament is on tap again starting Aug. 10 and the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve will echo with the sound of roaring race car engines as NASCAR returns to the city on Aug. 29-30.

Marquee events aside, travellers to Montreal also have an abundance of restaurants, clubs, stores, bars, the Biodome and museums at their disposal.

Among the attractions, the Pointe-a-Calliere archeology and history museum is offering a look at pirates through 150 objects, giving a glimpse into the lives of privateers from the 16th to 19th centuries.

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Washington, DC's tourism bureau is creating an "Obama-inspired itinerary," to try and attract visitors to the U.S. capital. The tour includes places Obama visited during his campaign and since his inauguration. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Viktor & Rolf aim to revive 'happy travel'

STYLE Quirky Dutch fashion label Viktor & Rolf has just designed a range of luxury luggage for Samsonite Black Label. The playful and extravagant collection is inspired by the theme of "happy travel" and plays up the duo's reputation for the surreal and theatrical. "Over the years, travel has become so difficult," Viktor Horsting explains. "We wanted to recapture a more childlike feeling of travel." The provocative luggage range features bows, patent trims and purse clasps, all in hues of black, midnight blue and scarlet.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Viktor & Rolf's new luggage for Samsonite Black Label.

Can't-miss Kiev

TheTravelJunkie

Julia Dimon

metronews.ca/traveljunkie

Dubbed "the mother of Slavic cities," the Ukrainian capital of Kiev is a growing destination for international tourists. This former Soviet hub is not only rich in history, architecture and tradition — it's a cosmopolitan city of trendy cafes, cool hangouts and stylish nightclubs.

Where to stay: For modern accommodations with all the comforts of home, the Hyatt Regency Kiev is the best choice. Located in the heart of the city, the hotel is within walking distance of some of the top tourist attractions, including St. Sophia's Cathedral and St. Michael's Monastery. In a country where very little English is spoken and taxi drivers are keen to scam foreigners, it sure is helpful to have bilingual concierges on hand.

Where to shop: The main strip of Khreshchatyk has everything from Puma to Nike, Mango to Zara and Soviet-era department stores to Louis Vuitton and Gucci. On weekends they close the strip to cars, making retail therapy all the more pedestrian friendly.

Where to buy Communist-era kitsch: Strolling along the winding cobblestone streets in front of St. Andrew's Baroque cathedral, you'll find a whack of kitschy communist sou-



A view over Kiev from the Vidubichi monastery.

venirs such as gas masks, Lenin T-shirts, Russian wooden dolls, Stalin shot glasses and Ukrainian crafts. Just a few steps away you'll find the heart of the Ukrainian art community. On summer afternoons, sidewalks are lined with original artworks.

Where to eat: Koureni, one of the oldest restaurants in Kiev, serves up traditional Ukrainian cuisine in a quaint garden setting. Overlooking the Dnieper River, Koureni has a killer view of the city and some of the tastiest pancakes with caviar.

If you're craving international cuisine try Avalon, a seafood restaurant with an underwater, mermaid-inspired decor, or Nobu, a venue known for its sushi, sashimi and other Japanese dishes.

Where to party: Buddha Bar is relatively new to the Kiev club scene. Following in the footsteps of Buddha Bars in Paris and New York City, Buddha Bar Kiev is a

dinner club with pan-Asian cuisine and a reputation for glamour. While VIPs groove to deep house, could-be-models scan for rich future husbands. Partiers move from the restaurant's iconic gold Buddha statue to the lounge for martinis. It's a space of pretty people with mood lighting so dark you can barely see your edamame appetizer.

Where to hang: Many young Ukrainians choose to hang and sip local brew in the famous Independence Square.

Home of Ukraine's Orange Revolution, it's both a historic square and popular spot for a cheap and cheerful night out. Drinking openly in the streets is common, so many spend their summer evenings relaxing on the steps near the Globus Shopping Centre, cracking open a beer and people watching.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 8:30 p.m. EST on OLN; juliadimon.com.

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Maple season

- The call of the wild awaits you at the Mountsberg Conservation Area in Campbellville, Ont. Throughout March, you can take in the first taste of spring on a horse-drawn sleigh ride through the bush. While on the tour, a guide will teach you about both traditional and modern methods of maple syrup making. Maple candy making sessions will be available, and the pancake pavilion serves flapjacks covered in pure maple syrup.
 - The scenic park has extensive wetlands and a meadow as well. There are great hiking and cross-country ski trails, boardwalks, birdfeeders and interpretive lookouts.
 - While in town, consider fitting in some antiquing. Campbellville is a mecca for interesting shopping, with stores that sell Mennonite furniture and home decor from around the world.
 - The Mountsberg Conservation Area is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission ranges from free to \$6.50. Call 905-854-4358.
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- Point Pelee National Park is



Sugaring-off season is on at Mountsberg Conservation Area in Campbellville, Ont.

spectacular in every season. It's located alongside Lake Erie in Leamington, Ont., near Windsor, and though it's best-known for being home to Canada's southernmost tip of land, it has lots of other features. Its forest has three different walking trails, a boardwalk over a marsh and various ski trails. Coyotes, flying squirrels and beavers are among the most commonly seen animals in the winter. Don't be surprised if a wild turkey walks within a foot of you — they're very friendly and are found all over the park. How-

ever, staff advise they should not be touched.

- Between March 16 and 20, short films and interactive exhibits will be set up in the visitor's centre. Since it's March break for most schools, more games and programs than usual will be on offer. There's a day-long scavenger hunt throughout the park entitled An Amazing Race Adventure, and if you want to skate, call ahead — on days when the marsh's ice is thick enough, visitors are invited to lace up their skates and jump on. Visit pc.gc.ca. — AMBER BELLAIRE/ FOR METRO CANADA

Leeches are Canada's most unusual spa treatment

SPAS In her annual list of notable Canadian spas, industry observer and Metro columnist Anne Dimon singles out the leech therapy at one Ontario establishment for special mention. "We haven't tried this yet and we're not sure we want to but it's certainly the most unusual spa treatment that has come to our attention from across Canada in the last year," Dimon says.

Elemental Embrace in Brighton, Ont., uses leeches for blood-letting — a treatment it calls "Rata-mokshana." The spa says it offers Ayurveda treatments native to India.

Dimon cites spas in categories including best for fitness (the Spa at White Oaks Resort & Spa at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.), best oceanfront (Wick-aninnish Inn & Ancient Cedars Spa in Tofino, B.C.) and best spa at a historic resort (Fairmont Algonquin St. Andrews by the Sea, N.B.). **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Officials in the Bahamas are hoping this year's Miss Universe pageant will add some beauty to an ugly year for tourism. The Aug. 30 pageant will be at the Atlantis resort, which recently laid off 10 per cent of its staff. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Madrid offers a bit of everything

Great restaurants, galleries and shopping among attractions in the Spanish city

SAIDA ANTRÁS
Metro World News



There's something for everyone in Madrid — 300 days a year of sunshine, great restaurants and exciting nightlife. Art lovers can find one of the world's best collections at the Prado Museum, and cutting-edge contemporary art is featured at the Thyssen museum. Barcelona may have inspired Woody Allen, but Madrid is muse to the renowned Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar.

Where to stay Budget

Galaico Hostel: A simple but comfortable hotel located on Gran Vía, one of Madrid's main streets, and at the heart of the shopping district around the



CARLOS CAZURRO BURCOS

Left, El Rastro is said to be the world's largest flea market. Right, patrons lounge on the patio of a typical Madrid tapas bar.



PAOLO GIACOSO

buzzing square known as Puerta del Sol. Double room from \$95 Gran Vía, 15; hostalgalaico.com

Mid-range

Hotel NH Eurobuilding: Right in the centre of Madrid, NH Eurobuilding hotel is surrounded by some of the city's most iconic sites, including the Europe Tower, the Picasso Tower and the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Corporate but stylish, with a spa. Double room from \$163. Calle Padre Damián, 23; nh-hotels.com

Deluxe

Santo Mauro: Home to David Beckham for a couple of months when he arrived to play at Real Madrid, this former residence of the Duke of Santo Mauro has only 51 luxury rooms and is located in the centre of Madrid. Suites run up to \$1,500. Calle Zurbano, 36; ac-hotels.com

What to see

Palacio Real: The Palacio Real of Madrid (Royal Palace) is the official residence of the King of Spain, Juan Carlos I, although day-to-day he lives at the Palace of La Zarzuela on the city's outskirts. This 18th century palace is now used for ceremonies, and you can visit its sumptuous rooms including the throne room, armoury and the collection of paintings by Goya, Caravaggio and Velazquez. Entry \$16; patrimonional.es

Paseo del Arte: The Paseo del Arte or Art Avenue includes monuments, gardens and the best three museums around the Paseo del Prado — the Prado, the Thyssen-Bornemisza and the Reina Sofia Art Centre. The three art galleries have recently undertaken ambitious improvement and extension projects. The Prado has a new building designed by the celebrated Spanish architect Rafael Moneo and the Reina Sofia Arth Centre has been enlarged by Jean Nouvel.

Retiro Park: The Retiro Park is a very popular green space in Madrid's city centre, not far from the Prado Museum and home to the large artificial lake called Retiro's Pond, which is the perfect place for a romantic boat trip. The park also contains the Crystal Palace, the Statue of the Falling Angel and the Forest of the Departed, a memorial dedicated to the 191 victims of the March 11, 2004, Madrid terrorist attacks.

Gran Vía: The Gran Vía, built in the mid 19th century, was created to connect two urban areas, namely the Alcalá street and the Plaza de España square. It's a busy shopping and entertainment street, full of cinemas and restaurants.

Capricho Park: In the 14

On the web

• esmadrid.com

hectares of Capricho Park you can find a small river, a labyrinth, an artificial lake with an island and a bunker that was built during the Spanish Civil War. Some of the scenes of the film Doctor Zhivago were shot there. It's not downtown, but is worth a visit.

Where to shop

Food

Mantequería Bravo: Pick up a bottle of Cava, the best of Spanish cold cuts and perhaps a wedge of Don Picón de Cuenca ewe's-milk cheese, earthy with rosemary and thyme; Calle Ayala, 24.

Clothes

Fuencarral Market: Located in Chueca, which is Madrid's gay neighbourhood and one of the city's trendiest shopping areas, this market has more than 60 shops selling clothes, accessories, gifts, house decorations, shoes and records. You'll also find hairdressers, tattoo parlours, art galleries, clubs, restaurants and terraced bars; Calle Fuencarral. mdf.es.

Music

Escridiscos: Independent record shops in Madrid are rare. Escridiscos opened in

1977, and was the gathering place for bands in Madrid's '80s Movida movement. Nowadays it sells retro rock, psychedelic, indie and Spanish pop; Calle Navas de Tolosa, 4, escridiscos.net.

Souvenirs

Kukuxumuxu: Popular Spanish clothing firm with original designs, originally inspired by the running of the bulls at the San Fermín festival. Their fun cartoons adorn T-shirts, sweaters, ashtrays, notebooks, pens and even pet clothes; Calle Mayor, 47, kukuxumuxu.com.

Markets

Rastro: Purportedly the world's largest flea market, Rastro is held on Sundays and holidays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The streets of the entire area are filled with stalls selling just about everything imaginable; Calle Ribera de Curtidores.

Where to go clubbing

Underground

Berlin Cabaret: Located in the heart of the lively La Latina district, with live music, stand-up comedy, theatre and drag queen shows almost every night. Calle Costanilla de San Pedro, 11. Hours: 8 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Read more on page 33 »

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Road trippy

Handmade monuments built by eccentrics across the U.S. are featured in the second season of *Driven by Vision*, premiering tonight on VisionTV. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

travel 33



Left, the shopping area known as the Puerto del Sol. Right, the Plaza Mayor.

<< Continued from page 32

Trendy

El Junco: Fun, hip jazz club that draws celebrities, models and those just looking for famous people, models, and naturally all those people wishing to experience Madrid's nightlife in a truly inviting setting. C/ Santa Barbara, 24. Hours: 11:30 p.m. to 3 a.m.; eljunco.com.

Exclusive

Pachá theatre: Pacha is the cult disco at the heart of Madrid's nightlife. Set in

the historic Barceló Theatre, this multi-floored venue offers the latest house tunes for a dressed up crowd; C/ Barceló, 11. Open: Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 11:30 p.m. to 6 a.m., pacha-madrid.com.

Where to eat
Traditional

La posada de la Villa: The first inn to be built in Madrid at the time of the Hapsburgs, in 1642. It has been renovated and is now a restaurant specializing in Castilian and Madrid cui-

sine, including lamb, roasted on a wood-fire oven, and the cocido Madrileño, a chickpea-based stew traditionally cooked in an earthenware pot over a low fire; C/ Cava Baja, posadadelavilla.com

Trendy

Café de Oriente: One of the most iconic restaurants in Madrid, situated in Plaza de Oriente opposite the Royal Palace. As well as high quality international cuisine, you'll find a great selection of wines and ci-

gars; Plaza de Oriente, 2, cafedeoriente.es.

The best restaurant
in town

El Chaflán: This ultra-stylish award-winning restaurant, complete with grey walls and a live olive tree growing the centre of the dining room, offers equally stylish cuisine. Chef Juan Pablo Felipe offers modern Spanish dishes using the freshest of Spanish produce. Avenida Pío XII, 34. Gourmet menú: \$155; elchaflan.com.

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4-star all-inclusive accom. Departs Mar 17/nol/ts.

Varadero 4-Star **\$697**
Oasis Turquesa + taxes & fees \$199
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The Mid-America Science Museum in Hot Springs, Ark., is celebrating its 30th anniversary and promoting recently launched hands-on exhibits that are meant to spur interest in engineering and physics. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



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L-R: William Holman Hunt, The Awakening Conscience ©Tate, London 2008. Dante Gabriel Rossetti, The Bower Meadow. Manchester City Galleries. William Holman Hunt and Frederic George Stephens, The Light of the World. Manchester City Galleries.



DAVID WHITE/FOR METRO CANADA

Diving off the board by the Lazy Lizard

Nothing's a problem on Caye Caulker

<< Continued from page 28

party is never planned, but one could break out at any time. A quiet bar can morph into a sin-packed reggae club in which some of the dirtiest bumping and grinding imaginable takes place.

And then the next morning, one of those dancers may well turn out to be the captain of the reef trip boat. Turning up 40 minutes late for the tour with a pounding head, then throwing a series of empty beer bottles off his rain-bow-coloured vessel before departure is absolutely par for the course.

But if you finally do get out into the Hol Chan Marine Reserve, it's a wonderful playground. It becomes something of an aquatic highlights reel. Alongside the manatees and rays are sharks (not the man-eating variety), eels, barracudas and turtles. Throw in brain coral and thousands of

“If 20 people turn up at once, he just dishes out free rum punches while he cooks and sends a friend down to what passes for a supermarket in order to get some hot sauce.”

brightly coloured fish, and snorkelers are pretty much guaranteed to hit the jackpot.

Despite this, the reef is just a pleasant bonus for those that kick back on Caye Caulker.

If there's one place that perfectly captures the island's ridiculously laid-back vibe, it's Jolly Roger's Grill. To call it a restaurant would be going a little bit far — it's just one man and his oil can barbecue, with a few tables scattered by the beach. There are generally only two or three menu options, and the dishes come served in polystyrene boxes.

Doesn't sound all that promising, does it? But the old adage of never trusting

a skinny chef comes into play here. Roger is enormous, and as jolly as the name of the restaurant suggests. He also makes the best snapper in garlic sauce you'll ever taste, and routinely grills lobsters for virtually nothing, as if they were common-or-garden chicken fillets from a budget supermarket.

Nothing fazes him — if 20 people turn up at once, he just dishes out free rum punches while he cooks and sends a friend down to what passes for a supermarket in order to get some hot sauce.

He's Caye Caulker through and through — a drink, a smile and a “no problem” is the cure for all ills.



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Great... catfish houses?

If you've got a hankering for fried catfish, the March issue of Saveur magazine has a list of six great catfish houses across the U.S. to satisfy your yen. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

travel **35**

Michelin urges resto rethink

As the Michelin guide celebrates the release of its 100th French edition, its director is urging France's great chefs to invent new ways of filling their restaurants during the economic crisis.

Jean-Luc Naret said it will force some restaurants to explore "new concepts," pointing to New York's up-scale Jean Georges restaurant which is offering three-star lunchtime cuisine for \$28 US.

Although the world's super rich haven't lost their taste for fine dining, some restaurants are losing business, particularly from corporate clients, and are having to offer cheaper menus, even at the top end, he said.

"Those who are too expensive will be forced to reinvent themselves," he said. "It's not caviar every day."

However, crisis isn't on the menu for Le Bristol, where Michelin elevated chef Eric Frechon's restaurant to three-star status — the only one to receive such an upgrade in this year's guide.



Head chef Eric Frechon poses in Le Bristol's kitchen in Paris. Le Bristol, a favourite of French President Nicolas Sarkozy, is given three-star status in the new Michelin Guide.

Frechon said his new coveted status should help fill empty dining tables.

"In the past, we used to turn people away. Today we aren't doing that anymore and we're one or two tables short," he told The Associated Press from the kitchen where he spends most of his life, often from 7 a.m. to midnight.

"The third star is welcome because the seats were missing will be filled tomorrow."

Le Bristol, which opened its doors in 1925, lies just

down the street from French President Nicolas Sarkozy's Parisian palace.

Frechon, who Sarkozy decorated with the French Legion of Honour last year, says the president sometimes dines there a couple of times a week, and his favourite dish is the starter of stuffed macaroni with black truffle, artichoke and duck foie gras, which costs \$101.15.

A native of Normandy, in western France, Frechon describes his menu as traditional French cooking

"Those who are too expensive will be forced to reinvent themselves."

Jen-Luc Naret

with a modern touch.

To celebrate, Michelin is expecting Frechon and around 400 guests, including other starred Michelin chefs, VIPs and artists, at the Musee d'Orsay on Monday evening for an exhibition of 100 alternative guide covers.

Naret, the Michelin director, insisted the three-star rating was not influenced by Sarkozy's culinary preferences.

"It's not because it's a restaurant that (Sarkozy) likes that it was chosen," he said at a news conference in Paris.

The awards of the coveted Michelin stars can make or break a chef's career. Every year, the French culinary world trembles as the industry's biggest names wait to see who will be the winners — and who will fall off their pedestal.

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Road to Recovery
Law & Order: SVU's Mariska Hargitay is on the road to recovery, and will likely be solving on-screen crimes again soon. Hargitay was hospitalized for the third time last week for discomfort related to a collapsed lung, which she suffered in January. TVGUIDE.COM

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA



New Moon

Kristen Stewart thinks *New Moon* will be "bigger and better" than *Twilight*. The actress is about to reprise her role as Bella Swan in the second installment of the vampire franchise. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Best bets for CMW

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Toronto

Toronto will reprise its role as host to a plethora of musical acts from Canada and abroad this week-end when the annual Canadian Music Week festival kicks off.

With 500 artists playing at 45 venues, it can be daunting to whittle down your wish list in pursuit of the bet new music. But Metro has waded through the lengthy lineup to bring you our pan-Canadian picks for bands sure to be some of the best of the fest.

THURSDAY

• **Jason Bajada, 11 p.m., Clinton's** — Montreal's Bajada pairs relaxed prose with mellow pacing to create an intimate, pared-down sound. His sweet-sounding voice on

Canadian Music Week

top of acoustic instrumentation tells pensive tales made appealing by their often-forlorn nature that contrast with more blissful orchestration.

• **Mother Mother, 11 p.m., Supermarket** — Perhaps the double name represents the added punch this Vancouver quintet seems to propel into everything it touches, from its clever songwriting to high-energy performances. Mother Mother pens wittily emphatic rock songs, beautifully articulated by the vocal balance it underscores.

• **Bend Sinister, 12 a.m., Black Betty** — It's a prog-rock revival with this five-piece Vancouver band. Bend Sinis-



ter's updated version of the 60s/70s musical movement invites pop and punk infusions, punctuated by frontman Dan Moxon's signature wails, matched with grandiose guitar solos.

• **Malajube, 12 a.m., El Mocambo** — Quels temps nous vivons! When a francophone rock band can ascend the franco-anglo divide so aptly, celebration's surely in order. Montreal foursome Malajube delivers arrangements marked with an air of mystique, poisoning audiences for a powerful pop-rock experience.



Montreal singer-songwriter Jason Bajada, left, Vancouver prog-rock act Bend Sinister, above, and Halifax heartbreaker Jenn Grant, right, are just a few of the more than 500 artists at CMW this week.

FRIDAY

• **Human Highway, 11:10 p.m., Horseshoe Tavern** — Islands frontman Nicholas Thorburn and Jim Guthrie fasten to form Human Highway. The duo harmonizes on mellow, Shins-like lo-fi folkpop. Sounding like a sometimes-dejected pair of rural Canadian Beach Boys, HH pens dreamlike tracks sure to leave a lingering taste.

• **The Ghost is Dancing, 2 a.m., The Silver Dollar Room** — This lineup-pliable hometown collective will entreat you to your feet

with its anxiously attractive indie-rock tunes. Channeling Architecture in Helsinki, TGID knows how to bring imagination to the stage, both through its spry vocal arrangement and optimistic instrumental tone.

SATURDAY

• **Jenn Grant, 12 a.m., Reverb** — This East Coast sweetheart fashions pretty folk ditties, boosted by her cute, comic on-stage demeanor. Unhurried, Jenn Grant uses precise pacing with acoustic guitar and a pure voice echoing Sarah



Harmer to create winsome story songs.

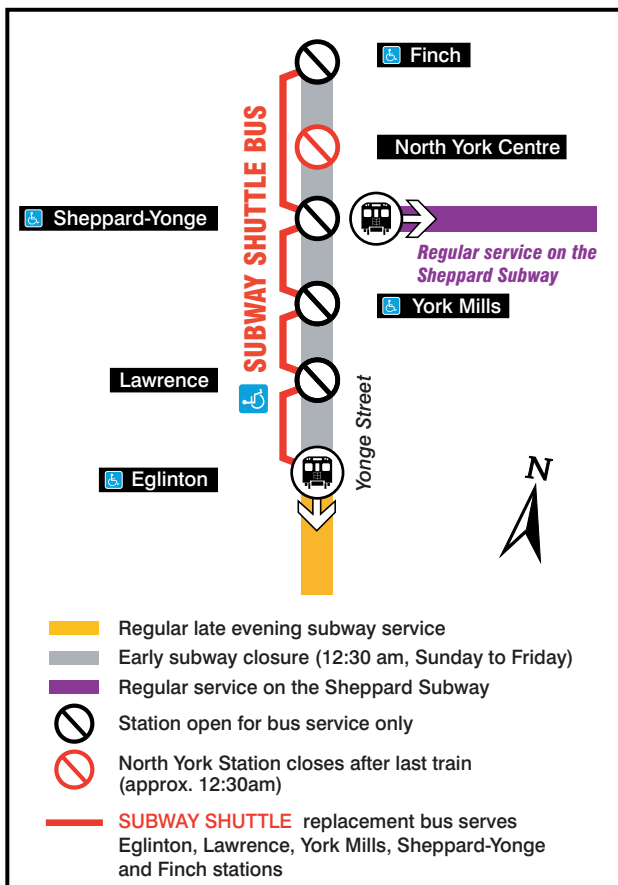
• **Vancouver, 2:10 a.m., Horseshoe Tavern** — Vivacious East Vancouver femme fatale foursome Vancouver, like its portmanteau name, fuses two musical schools together to create a compelling sound. Vancouver matches girl group vocals, circa 1960s, with harder garage pop tunes to make you swoon.

Follow the latest on Canadian Music Week by reading our blog at metronews.ca



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Leno to perform for unemployed

PEOPLE Michigan's high unemployment is no laughing matter, but Jay Leno will offer a little comic relief with a free show next month at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

The NBC Tonight Show host said on Monday's show the April 7 performance will be for "anybody out of work in Detroit."

People only have to say they're unemployed to get tickets. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

In brief

COURTS A Los Angeles Superior Court judge has ordered Clive Cussler to pay \$13.9 million US in legal fees to the production company that turned his novel Sahara into a box-office flop.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt



Read Paris Fashion Week reviews, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

Real Housewife charged

A model who appears on Bravo's reality show The Real Housewives of New York City denies charges that she punched an ex-boyfriend in the face. Kelly Killoren Bensimon was arrested in Manhattan last week on a misdemeanour assault charge. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



The cure for a crisis

Knowing and other fantasy films offer escape from reality

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada



Last week saw the release of Zack Snyder's *Watchmen*, a mammoth, morally dubious superhero saga whose dramatic arc rests on questions of sacrificing mankind in order to save it.

And now we have cult filmmaker Alex Proyas' blockbuster science fiction thriller *Knowing* — out next Friday — a picture that veers into apocalyptic dread and alien paranoia but in its subtext, is really offering a shocking solution to our planet's myriad of cultural, economical and environmental problems.

It's a classic case of using fantasy to cloak sophisticated musings on reality.

Since cinema started, periods of social, political and, yes, financial stress have caused some of the most profound and thoughtful genre movies to come crawling out of the ether, offering both glossy



Rose Byrne, left, and Nicolas Cage star in a scene from the upcoming film *Knowing*, which opens in theatres next Friday.

escape from reality and hard stares directly into it.

This was true in the 1920s in Germany, when the battered post-First World War youth culture gave birth to the expressionist movement, which led to the Great Depression sparked advent of earthy, gothic horror films in the U.S.

The 1950s saw a McCarthy paranoia fuelled populace wither under an onslaught of allegorical alien invasion thrillers, while in the early 1970s, as

the news spat out violent images of Vietnam, people gravitated toward mind-bending techno-shockers that showed mankind at its morally lowest.

And now, as North America struggles to dig itself out from under a seemingly unyielding economic crisis and with the war in Iraq and Afghanistan continuing to rack up casualties, multiplexes are being besieged by a new wave of anxious, dark and ultimately fascinating films, pictures that offer a bleak

Movie feature

world view coupled with elements of the supernatural and metaphysical.

"What I've always liked about the fantasy, horror and science fiction genres is that it heightens the background noise of the characters," says Proyas — who also directed *Dark City* and *The Crow* — about the genre he chiefly toils in.

"It gives people them an extreme version of the real world to see how people react in it. But no matter how strange events can get, it's always about the humanity. Sometimes you really have to look deeply for it, but it's always there, driving the story."

Film is, and always will be a mirror and though the heavy shadow of recession looms large, some comfort lies in the promise that because of this, Hollywood might continue releasing lavish entertainments that actually challenge and confront us.

Entertainment in brief

ECONOMY Eddie Doyle was the guy who know everybody's name. But after tending bar for 35 years at the Boston tavern

that inspired the TV show *Cheers*, Doyle has been laid off. The bar's owner blame the economy. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Maxine Bahns, who plays Simon Baker's wife on the CBS drama The Mentalist, has given birth to a daughter. Bahns and her husband, professional adventure racer Patrick Watson, welcomed Madison Rose Watson on Sunday. PEOPLE.COM

Outsider 'old coots' Driven by artistic Vision

PETER GODDARD
for Metro Canada



Old coots can make good art. This is a North American thing, it seems. Venerable Europeans are never called old coots. They're "senior artists" or "distinguished." If rich and famous, they're masters.

But Jim Bishop and M.T.

Liggett are just plain old coots and damn proud of it. We discover this quickly enough in the first episode of Vision TV's neat little art-centric series Driven by Vision (tonight at 10 p.m.) in its second season.

Bishop, with his castle in Pueblo, Colo., "didn't like school." He "don't like the system." Why, that George W. Bush should be tried

"for war crimes," he adds.

But old M.T. makes Bishop sound like Mary Poppins. "If you're a politician," Mullinville, Kan.-based Liggett snaps, "if you're a good friend or not, I'm comin' to get you."

Bishop's Castle, nearly 50 metres high in parts, was kickstarted in 1969 when Bishop began building a house that expands

year after year through his own sweat and sinew.

Liggett, a feisty 76 years old, makes crudely charming metal whirligigs that caricature the locals and the people he's met, particularly women.

While working on a female form, he's asked, "Where are the breasts going to go?"

"Where the hell do you

think they're going to go?" Liggett shoots back.

Both Bishop and Liggett know there's aesthetic merit in what they're doing. For all their stubbornness, they realize that attention is increasingly being given to outsider art.

Indeed, it was an exhibition by American outsider artist Emery Blagdon that prompted Judy Holm and

Michael McNamara, the Toronto couple who created Driven By Vision.

Some artists interviewed know that their brief moment on Driven by Vision may be the only lasting record of their achievements. "People build with vision, but they're not always engineers," McNamara says. "Their places may not last forever."

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Nickelodeon nominates Brown

Nickelodeon says it has no plans to remove Chris Brown as a nominee for its annual Kids' Choice Awards, despite the singer's felony charges for allegedly beating up his girlfriend Rihanna. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

U2 tour features recession pricing

Not since their early '80s nascence when they played small venues like the El Mocambo and the Maple Leaf Ballroom could you catch a U2 show for \$30 – the bottom price for the band's upcoming tour.

"I can't recall when there was a show with an act of that magnitude that had a \$30 ticket," said Toronto promoter Jonathan Ramos. "It would be hard for us to find that price for an artist a tier below."

Tickets, which range up to \$250, go on sale later this month for the Irish rockers' 360 Degrees road show, which kicks off in Barcelona on June 30 and hits the Rogers Centre on Sept. 16.

"We've tried to come up with a price-

ing structure that recognizes the realities of what's going on," said Arthur Fogel, CEO of Live Nation Global Touring, of the introduction of the 10,000 lower-priced tickets.

But don't consider that another of the socially progressive group's humanitarian gestures, warned veteran music journalist Larry Leblanc.

"Doesn't it smack of a PR thing to you?" he wondered. "Let's not kid ourselves, (big concert promoters) take a huge rap because of ticket prices being as high as they are."

"But the ticket prices are the way they are because the artists are insisting that they be paid

that kind of money.

"A lot of the bands will argue records sales have gone down and seeing a band live is the last place that they can get their money's worth out of the fan."

Billboard said the U2 tour is expected to be one of the highest-grossing ever. The band's 2005-2007 Vertigo tour pulled in \$389 million, ranking second only to the \$558 million haul for the Rolling Stones' Bigger Bang trek during the same period.

Artists' fees are always the biggest expense, said Ramos, whose Ramos Entertainment Management Group club and theatre shows generally range from \$10-\$60.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Live Nation will be selling 10,000 lower-priced tickets (starting at \$30) for the upcoming U2 tour.



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ABC's V reboot has found its alien leader: Morena Baccarin has landed the lead role of Anna, says the Hollywood Reporter. **TVGUIDE.COM**

Gimmick's up for Jason

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada



Gimmicky challenges and his own gimmicky designs finally brought Hamilton designer Jason Meyers' journey to a halt on last night's episode of Project Runway Canada.

Last night's unusual material of choice was Post-It notes and designers were challenged to use the sticky paper strips to create a dress for a breast cancer survivor.

Meyers, 31, used fluorescent yellow and pink Post-Its to create an enormous gown that judges called "a train wreck" and he was sent home.

He says doing the show was a great learning experience that forced him to think differently and gave him a chance to share ideas with like-minded individuals.

"It was definitely a growing experience as a designer for me. I developed more and it was cool to see different techniques and styles from the other designers," Meyers said.

Iman and the other



Designer Jason Meyers was sent home last night.

judges frequently referred to Meyers as a "gimmicky" designer, but he insists he just did his best with challenges that were innately strange, like using old wedding dresses for fabric or making a gown out of Post-It notes.

"The challenges I found were gimmicky themselves, so I kind of just went for it," Meyers said.

Tasked with creating a camouflage dress in week one, Meyers built a dress with a tail that could be pulled over the model's head to hide her. In another week, Meyers sewed in

thumb fasteners across the surface of a dress to let it go from day to evening by having the model clip parts of it up or down.

He admits time and budget constraints were the biggest challenge on the show and he's proud of having made it as far as he did.

"We only had one zipper and \$100 to buy fabric — that was really hard. I didn't give up and tried to work through it as best as I could," Meyers said.

Meyers is proudest to have won week two's challenge, when Canadian ac-

"I just tried to do my own thing. I wouldn't sabotage anybody because we're all designers, we're all there for the same reason."

Jason Meyers

tress Elisha Cuthbert picked his classic, black Hollywood dress for herself to wear, calling it "beautifully made."

Unlike some of the designers who engaged in back-biting drama on the show, Meyers says his goal was always to be a neutral force and focus on his own work. "I just tried to do my own thing. I wouldn't sabotage anybody because we're all designers, we're all there for the same reason," Meyers said.

When to watch

- Project Runway Canada airs on Tuesday nights on Global.

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Leopard Man of Ngala	The Agenda With Steve Paikin	Little Dorrit (N)	Human Edge	Agenda-Paikin			
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)	(10:02) Life on Mars	News			
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia	
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Week the Women Went	Being Erica (N) (DVS)	CBC News: The National		The Hour	
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		The Chopping Block (N)	Nip/Tuck (HDTV)	Murdoch Mysteries		News (N)	
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Criminal Minds (N)	American Idol	CSI: NY "Green Piece"		News (N)	
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Party Monsters: Cabo	Mariah Carey: THS	News (N)		News (N)	
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Destination Nor'Ouest (SC)	Le Silence de la forêt *** (2003, Drame)	Nouv. mondes	Aux limites		
	-	-	14	-	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)	News (N)	Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case	
	-	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Night of Terror (2006, Suspense)	Mitzi Kapture.	To Serve and Protect		Becker	
news	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N)	CSI: NY "Green Piece"	News (N)	
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	The Chopping Block (N)	Life "Shelf Life" (N)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		News (N)	
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Scrubs	Scrubs	Lost "LaFleur"	(10:02) Life on Mars	News	
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	America's Next Top Model (N)	Lost "LaFleur"	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		News (N)	
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Lie to Me "Do No Harm"	American Idol	Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Mulberry	Pavarotti: Salute Petra	The Berlin Celebration Concert			Business Rpt.	
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model (N)	90210 "By Accident"	PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men	
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)	WBZ News (N)	What's-Store	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Next Model
	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National	Tropic of Capricorn		National	
sports	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias	Larry King Live	Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)			
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)	American Greed	On the Money		Mad Money	
	405	417	22	net	(6:30) Baseball World Classic -- Teams TBA. (Live)		Sportsnet Con.	Baseball World Classic -- Teams TBA. (Live)				
	400	400	30	TSN	NHL Hockey Tampa Bay Lightning at Ottawa Senators. (HDTV) (Live)			Curling Tim Hortons Brier -- Draw 14. (HDTV) (Live)				
	411	457	58	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman	Mantracker	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman
	417	406	81	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks (HDTV)	Drag Race	Drag Race	Pimp My Ride
	551	542	25	YTV	In Real Life (N)		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Adrenaline Proj	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Father of Pride
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House
	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	Grocery	Supersize vs. Superskinny	Stuck "Food"	Maxed Out (N)	Maxed Out
family	570	580	29	MM	America's Best Dance Crew	Redemption	Redemption	Brit Awards '09				PunchMuch
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Rio" (HDTV)	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Exterminators	Exterminators	
	700	800	35	TLN	UEFA Champ	Sky TG 24	UEFA Champions	League Manchester United vs. Inter Milan.	Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez	
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	MusicProfile	Where You At	Revival	40 Hottest Hotties of the '90s	Sexiest celebrities.	Revival	
	575	583	38	CMT	CMT's Greatest	"Interviews"	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Cashing In	About a Girl	The Guard (HDTV)		Big Love (HDTV)	House
	620	523	40	BVO	The Achievers	Landscape	Arts & Minds	Bravo/Videos	Wingfield	Death at-Opera	Broadway	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Chop Shop	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	Kimora: Fab	Kardashians
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Missing"		Outlaw Bikers		Ice Road Truckers		NCIS "Missing"	Sea Hunters
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show	Demetri Martin
cable variety	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	Property Shop	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Hid Potential	Really Big Flip
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	The Bourne Supremacy *** (2004, Suspense)		Fresh Prince	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		Soul Plane ** (2004, Comedy) Kevin Hart, Tom Arnold.		Harlem Heights	Harlem Heights	Judge Hatchett	Stargate SG-1
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager	Primeval	Stormworld	Watchmen		MTV Live
	581	566	52	MTV	Room Raiders	After	MTV News	Cribs	The Real World		The Real World	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With
	603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Ultimate Recipe	Showdown		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote "Roadkill"		Summer Wine	Foot in Grave	SOUL "My Way" (N)	Driven-Vision	Supernatural	Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Blush: Make-Up Artist	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno	TMZ	TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small
cable variety	115	711	101	TVA	Poule-oeufs or	Star Académie:	Destinées (SC)		Domimages et intérêts (SC)		TVA 22 heures	Denis Lévesque
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Medium "In the Rough"		Medium		Mediums	Psychic Det.
	300	601	301	M1	August Rush ** (2007, Drama)	Freddie Highmore.			10,000 B.C. * (2008, Adventure)	Steven Strait.		I Am Legend
	305	612	306	PIX	(7:15) Carrie *** (1976, Horror)	Sissy Spacek.			Scream 2 *** (1997, Horror)	David Arquette.		Midnight Exp.

critics' corner

The Chopping Block

Two teams of eight compete in culinary challenges for a shot at the grand prize: a chance to open their own restaurant. The first competition pits them against each other to create a menu for host Marco Pierre White to judge by the end of the day. After less than 48 hours, the contestants must open their restaurants for service, to be evaluated by a top food critic from Atlantic magazine. 8 PM on NBC CITY



The New Adventures of Old Christine

Christine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) is used to the other mothers at Ritchie's (Trevor Gagnon) school calling her a nitwit, so when a scattered mom (guest star Kristen Johnston, "3rd Rock From the Sun") calls her "a rock," Christine — who never met a compliment she didn't like — is deeply flattered. Soon, however, she discovers being responsible is just exhausting. Clark Gregg and Emily Rutherford co-star in the new episode "Too Close for Christine." 8 PM on CBS

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Heche divorce battle ends

On Wednesday, Anne Heche's two-year divorce battle with Coley Laffoon came to an end. Although they reached a settlement last June, it took another nine months to hammer out custody details and the split of their assets, reports people.com. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Celebrity Buzz

Rihanna & Brown recording a duet?

MUSIC Rihanna and Chris Brown are recording a duet, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The couple — who have reconciled after Brown allegedly assaulted Rihanna in his rented Lamborghini car last month — are said to be working on a song for Brown's new album, which is due out later this year.

A source said: "They've been working on it together."

The pair is believed to be recording with producer Polow Da Don — who wrote the Pussycat Dolls hit Buttons — in a Santa Monica studio. Neither Brown nor Rihanna's representatives have commented on

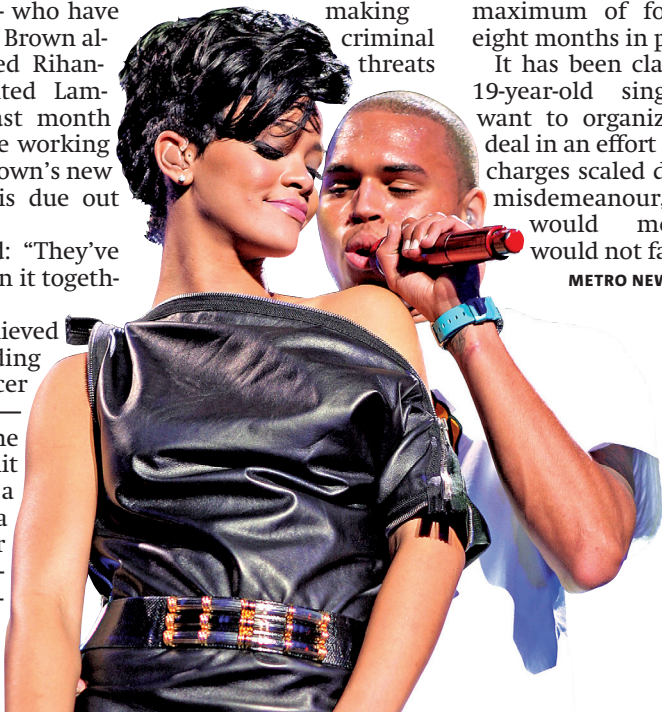
the claims.

Last week, Chris was charged with two felonies — assault and making criminal threats

— in relation to the alleged attack on Rihanna. He is yet to enter a plea, but if convicted he faces a maximum of four years eight months in prison.

It has been claimed the 19-year-old singer may want to organize a plea deal in an effort to get the charges scaled down to a misdemeanour, which would mean he would not face jail.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Victoria won't have baby while David away

FAMILY Victoria Beckham has reportedly told husband David she won't have another baby while he is living in Italy, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Although the soccer hunk is keen to have a fourth child, the former Spice Girl has reportedly told him it is not feasible while he is playing soccer for AC Milan and she and their three sons are living in the

U.S., where Beckham was playing for the Los Angeles Galaxy.

A source said: "The baby issue is a bit of a sore point. In Victoria's eyes it's not the right time. David's future with Los Angeles Galaxy is so uncertain that planning for another child is, in Victoria's eyes, premature. First, they need to sort out where they are going to be living."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Barton talks about beau on her blog

RELATIONSHIP Mischa Barton took to her blog yesterday to clear the air about her recent split with musician beau, Luke Pritchard, popeater.com reports. Although she says the two will remain friends, Barton wrote that "the bad just started to outweigh the good and a long distance relationship is never an easy thing to do."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Sets for Blunt's new role were 'realistic'

CAREER Emily Blunt says sets on her new movie were so realistic they made her "heave," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress plays a crime scene cleaner in independent comedy Sunshine Cleaning and admits the stench while filming some scenes almost overpowered her.

"Oh, they were realistic. Particularly the trailer park one — that was gag-making. We walked on set and I felt myself heave, as it really did smell," she said.

"And we had a fly wrangler on set. He breathes smoke on them, and they get a bit hazy and are not quite so sprightly — I don't

know how he does it."

To prepare for the movie, Blunt and her co-star Amy Adams became "obsessed" with watching crime shows on TV — but admits their plan to get used to the grisly setting was unsuccessful.

She added to the New York Daily News newspaper: "It didn't really help when it came to the gore and dealing with the decomposition. So a guy came in who did it for a living to talk to us. He was very clinical and showed us what he does. He relished showing us some of the horrific pictures and hearing us screeching at them."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Octuplets set to go home soon

PEOPLE As they grow stronger in the hospital, Nadya Suleman's octuplets are getting closer to coming home to a larger, recently purchased house — where it looks like they'll have a free fleet of skilled nurses, people.com reports.

The Suleman family is buying a house in Orange County, Calif., that's nearly twice as large as the one where Nadya, 33, the mother of the U.S.'s longest-surviving octuplets, lives with her six older children in Whittier.

"She's excited," Suleman's mother, Angela, tells People. "This new (house) will have a lot more space."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Parton criticizes Simpson scrutiny

GOSSIP Dolly Parton — whom Jessica Simpson has described as her idol — is glad scrutiny on the 28-year-old singer's weight seems to be dying down, usmagazine.com reports.

"She's obviously an amazing and talented singer — and one with real heart," Parton told usmagazine.com Monday at the Broadway opening night of 33 Variations. "I just wish people would focus on her voice — that's what she's doing. That's why she's so special. She's a beautiful girl."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Miley's health condition

HEALTH Miley Cyrus has a condition called tachycardia, which causes her heart rate to speed up, she reveals in her new autobiography, Miles to Go, usmagazine.com reports.

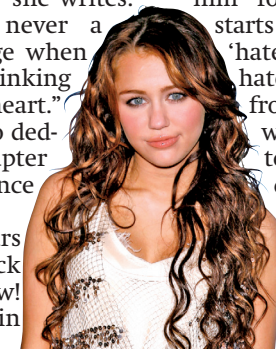
"The type of tachycardia I have isn't dangerous. It won't hurt me, but it does bother me," she writes. "There is never a time onstage when I'm not thinking about my heart."

Cyrus also dedicates a chapter to her "Prince Charming," who appears to be ex Nick Jonas. "Wow! I was so in

love," she says. "Do you know what I'm talking about? The kind of love where the sun could shine or not shine all day long and you wouldn't care."

After they split, she penned 7 Things I Hate About You. "I wanted to punish him, to get back at him for hurting me. It starts with a list of what I 'hate.' But I'm not a hater. My heart knew from the start that it was going to turn into a love song. Why does he get a love song? Because I don't hate him."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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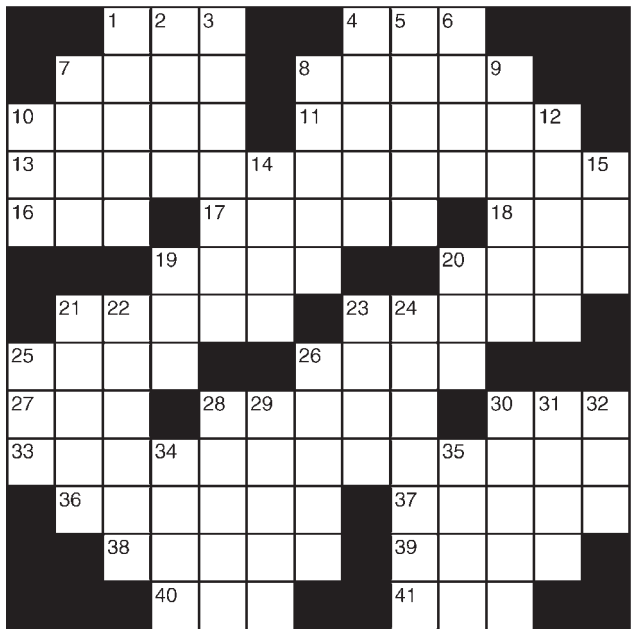
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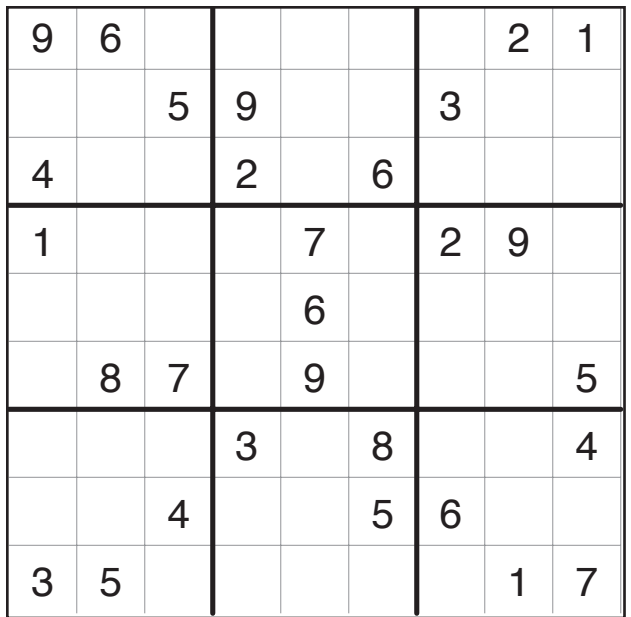
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Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



Crossword across

- 1 Ruin the veneer
4 Turf
7 Asian desert
8 Garden intruder
10 "Peer Gynt" composer
11 Go ashore
13 Where the Tar River flows
16 Hawaiian musicmaker
17 Rock opera by The Who
18 Encyclopedia bk.
19 Courts
20 Bigfoot's cousin
21 Metallic noise
23 Senses
25 Unyielding
- 26 Minimal change
27 Two, in Tijuana
28 Dieter's entree
30 "Gee, ya think?"
33 Neil Diamond classic
36 Checked cotton fabric
37 Like Chicago, it's said
38 Mah-jongg pieces
39 Therefore
40 Roulette bet
41 Rotation duration

Crossword down

- 1 Ripple pattern
2 Help a prankster
3 "You betcha!"
4 Whale variety
5 "Wow!"
6 Use an old phone
7 Understand, in sci-fi lingo
8 Washington's successor
9 Nonsense
10 Wildebeest
12 Entanglements
14 Diner employee
15 Foreman foe
19 Pale
20 Still
21 Throng
22 Go postal
- 23 Phobia
24 Provided an income for
25 Egos' counterparts
26 Sculpting mediums
28 Subway entrance
29 Played a part
30 Unclean
31 Destroy
32 "Yo!"
34 Eastern potentate
35 Old Italian money

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:	17-21 min	Smart
Under 13 min	21-25 min	Not bad
13-17 min	25+ min	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Spring Salmon and Asparagus

INGREDIENTS:
4 skinless salmon fillets, about 5 oz (140 g) each
7 oz (200 g) leeks
1/2 lb (250 g) tender asparagus spears
5 oz (150 g) sugar-snap peas
4 tbsp (60 ml) dry white wine
3/4 cup (175 ml) fish or vegetable stock
2 tbsp (25 ml) butter, diced
Salt and fresh-ground black pepper
1 tbsp (15 ml) snipped fresh chives

METHOD:
1. Run fingertips over salmon to check for stray bones, pulling out any that remain between flakes of fish. Arrange leeks in single layer in bottom of large, shallow

flameproof casserole. Lay pieces of salmon on top. Surround fish with asparagus and sugar-snap peas. Pour in wine and stock, and dot butter over fish. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
2. Bring to boil, then cover casserole with tight-fitting lid and reduce heat so liquid simmers gently. Simmer fish and vegetables until salmon is pale pink all through and vegetables are fork-tender, 12 to 14 minutes. Sprinkle chives over the salmon.

SERVES 4

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

- ARIES**
MARCH 21-APRIL 20

You're like an acrobat with no safety net. Make a comedy of a bad situation. It's not a good time to clean your closets.
- TAURUS**
APRIL 21-MAY 21

Your charm gets in the way of facing problems. Take care of pressing business. Make progress toward forgiveness.
- GEMINI**
MAY 22-JUNE 21

Don't bet on getting an inheritance. Take the initiative in making a fresh start. A secret meeting will clarify needs and desires.
- CANCER**
JUNE 22-JULY 22

A smart remark causes a volatile situation. Look for closure in a failed endeavor. There's sorrow behind a sudden departure.
- LEO**
JULY 23-AUG 23

A slender person is telling the truth. A woman will be open to a wonderful possibility. An attractive stranger wants to start a family.
- VIRGO**
AUG 24-SEPT 22

A sweetheart has been through some bad weather. Walk down Memory Lane with a serious person. Don't accept less than you deserve.
- LIBRA**
SEPT 23-OCT 23

A sleazy guy should be avoided. A loathsome monster lashes out at incompetence. You hold the future in your hands.
- SCORPIO**
OCT 24-NOV 22

An anguished person will listen carefully. An accomplice reminds you to make a call. The rumour mill is rife with speculation.
- SAGITTARIUS**
NOV 23-DEC 21

Be creative when wishing for success. Your best friend is a lucky charm. A significant caller gives you some practical support.
- CAPRICORN**
DEC 22-JAN 20

Be patient with a delicate friendship. Your situation is about to improve drastically. Don't be sarcastic when acting as a matchmaker.
- AQUARIUS**
JAN 21-FEB 18

Don't leave a friend alone in the dark. A therapeutic investment will pay off. Carefully monitor a reckless attitude.
- PISCES**
FEB 19-MARCH 20

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4u model shown

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LX model shown



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CASH PURCHASE PRICE

\$3,600
UP TO
CASH SAVINGS



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- Bluetooth® hands-free cell phone capability*
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*MSRP for 2010 Soul 1.6L MT (SO550A) is \$15,495. *Monthly lease payment for 2010 Soul 1.6L MT (SO550A) is \$189 for 48 months at 3.9% lease APR with a \$1,230 down payment. Total lease obligation is \$10,322 with the option to purchase at end of term for \$6,815. Delivery and destination fees of \$1,650 excluded. ♦Cash purchase price for 2009 Rio EX MT (RO5429)/2009 Rondo LX AT (RN7519) is \$9,995/\$16,695 and includes a cash rebate of \$3,600/\$3,300 based on an MSRP of \$13,595/\$19,995. Delivery and destination fees of \$1,455/\$1,650 excluded. License, registration, insurance, dealer administration fees and taxes are excluded. Other lease and finance options also available. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Prices subject to change without notice. Certain restrictions may apply. §Kia Integrity Advantage is valid on any new Kia model financed or leased through an authorized Kia dealer, for up to one year after purchase and covers a negative equity of up to \$7,500. Only available at participating dealers. Restrictions apply. Coverage options vary by province. <0% purchase financing available on all 2009 models for a term of up to 36 months on approved credit (O.A.C.). Term varies by model. Up to \$7,000 in cash savings offer available on cash purchase transactions and varies by model. >Highway/city fuel consumption for 2010 Soul 1.6L MT is 6.3 L (45 MPG)/7.7 L (36 MPG); 2009 Rio EX MT is 5.9 L (48 MPG)/7.3 L (39 MPG); 2009 Rondo LX is 7.5 L (38 MPG)/10.6 L (27 MPG) per 100km. The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. †Green Score for Kia Rio/Rondo based on manual/automatic transmission specification within their segment. Refer to GreenerCars.org for full details. ‡NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) test results. Visit www.safercar.gov for full details. *Conditions apply to the \$500 Grad Rebate program; see dealer for details. *Some conditions may apply to the \$750 Kia Mobility program. See dealer for details. ♦Late availability on Bluetooth hands-free option. ♦Kia's "Worry-Free Comprehensive" warranty covers most vehicle components against defects occurring under normal use and maintenance conditions. Bluetooth technology and SIRIUS® Satellite Radio available on select 2009 models. The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. © 2009 SIRIUS Canada Inc. See dealer for details. Price, availability and specifications are subject to changes without notice. Some vehicles advertised may include optional accessories or after-sale equipment and may not be exactly as shown. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. Offer ends March 31, 2009 and is valid for residents of Ontario and Manitoba only. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.